

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Delories Ricks-Wallace

PERSON

Ricks-Wallace, Delories, 1933-2011

Alternative Names: Delories Ricks-Wallace;

Life Dates: August 28, 1933-February 15, 2011

Place of Birth: Huntsville, Alabama, USA

Residence: Fort Wayne, Indiana

Occupations: Transportation Entrepreneur

Biographical Note

Businesswoman Delories Dell Ricks-Wallace was born on August 28, 1933, in Huntsville, Alabama. She moved with her family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, when she was 10 years old. By the age of 11, Ricks-Wallace was earning money by altering clothes in her uncle Norvel Ricks' dry cleaning business. She has combined her innate creative talents and sharp business acumen to become a true entrepreneur.

After high school, Ricks-Wallace attended Lockharts Tailoring School and obtained the skills needed to open her first sewing business. Her business prospered, and Wallace's business expanded to include a designer men's clothing line, WenDell's World Manufacturing Co. in Indianapolis, Indiana. The garments created there were sold in clothing stores she owned in Indianapolis and Bloomington, Indiana. In 1975, Ricks-Wallace founded Impulse Florist in Fort Wayne and showed the world yet another talent.

Ricks-Wallace's son, Kim, died in 1982. She closed her businesses, but two years later opened Luxury Limousine, Fort Wayne's first limousine service. Together with her husband Charles "Charlie Bob," Ricks-Wallace has owned and operated many other businesses, including Charlie's Tap, Kim's Korner, Wallace Maintenance, Club Zimmer and Blackman Prairie Subdivision-a collection of single-family homes located in Fremont, Indiana.

Over the years, Ricks-Wallace has been active at Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church, the Old Fort YMCA, the Fort Wayne Urban League Guild and the Ladell Traveling Club. Wallace and her husband raised seven children: Yvonne, Charles, Kim, LeeAnn, Emmett, Clifton and Wendell, as well as Kim's three children: Tara, Kim Jr. and Delories. Their grandchildren number twenty-four, not counting their seventeen great-

grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Ricks-Wallace passed away on February 15, 2011.

Related Entries

Winston Street Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

James H. Smart School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lockhart's Tailoring School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wendell's World Manufacturing Co. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Charlie's Taphouse & Café [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Proprietor

Kim's Korner [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Proprietor

Wallace Maintenance [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Proprietor

Club Zimmer [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Proprietor

Blackman Prairie Subdivision [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Dee-Lee's [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1972]

Founder

Mr. Adrian [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1974]

Impulse Florist [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to 1983]

Founder

Luxury Limousine, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1984 to ?]

Founder

National Urban League (NUL) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Old Fort YMCA [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Ultra Arts Club [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

S.C.O.R.E. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Ladell Club [MEMBEROF]
[from 1997 to ?]

Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church [MEMBEROF]
[from 2010 to ?]

Pastoral Steward