

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Herbert P. Wilkins, Sr.

PERSON

Wilkins, Herb, 1942-2013

**Alternative Names:** Herbert P. Wilkins, Sr.; Herbert Wilkins, Sr.; Herb P. Wilkins, Sr.; Herb Wilkins;

**Life Dates:** January 9, 1942-December 3, 2013

**Place of Birth:** Boston, Massachusetts, USA

**Residence:** Ellicott City, MD

**Work:** MD

**Occupations:** Media Executive; Investment Chief Executive

## Biographical Note

While other investors cursed the dot-com bust in the late 1990s, business executive Herb Wilkins amassed a fortune. Born to Katherine and William Wilkins in Boston on January 9, 1942, Wilkins has accumulated his riches by tapping into minority businesses in the communication industry as managing general partner of Syncom Capital Corporation.

Wilkins attended public school in his hometown of Boston. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Boston University in 1965, Wilkins graduated from the Harvard School of Business in 1970 and began a long, successful career in finance and management consulting. Wilkins operated his own consulting company, Wilkins & Company, from 1975 to 1977, before taking over as president of Syndicated Communications in Washington, D.C. He served in that capacity through 1989 before taking posts as managing general partner of Syncom Capital and president of Syncom Management Company.

With Syncom, Wilkins developed a profitable strategy of investing in communications companies that targeted inner-city neighborhoods. The corporation's long-term investment in Radio One, a black company that was the fastest-growing radio broadcasting company in 2000, paid tremendous dividends when the corporate stock went public in 1999. Syncom's assets reached \$150 million and Wilkins' net worth topped the \$75 million mark. Wilkins also served as director of BET Holdings, the parent company of Black Entertainment Television.

In addition to his business positions, Wilkins served on the boards of several companies and organizations geared toward minority broadcasting and communication. He worked as director of the National Association of Minorities in Cable TV and also was head of Chicago Cable Television. For his efforts to support rising minority communication companies, Wilkins received several honors and awards and was named to the FCC's Advance Committee on Minority Ownership in 1984. Wilkins was married to Sheran R. Wilkins and had three children.

Herbert Wilkins, Sr. passed away on December 3, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Central State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Boston Technical High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Boston University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Harvard Business School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Wilkins & Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1995 to ?]

**Founder**

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1985 to 2007]

**General Electric** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Lucas, Tucker, & Co.** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to ?]

**Urban National Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1975 to 1977]

**Syndicated Communications** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1989]

**President**

**Kappa Alpha Psi** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**NAMIC** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]