

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul Cooke

PERSON

Cooke, Paul P.

Alternative Names: Paul Cooke;

Life Dates: June 29, 1917-July 4, 2010

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: College President

Biographical Note

College president Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke was born on June 29, 1917 in New York City to Mamie Kathleen Phillips and Louis Philips Cooke, Sr. Cooke attended Garrison Elementary School and Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, both in Washington, D.C. He earned a diploma from Dunbar High School where he played on the baseball team and was a member of the Cadet Corps. During his senior year in 1933, his company was asked to perform at a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

From 1933 to 1937, Cooke attended Miner Teachers College in Washington, D.C. where he earned his B.S. degree. He continued his studies at New York University where he earned his M.A. degree in education. In 1943, Cooke earned another M.A. degree in English from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and completed his studies with an Ed.D. degree from Columbia University in 1947. While attending Columbia, Cooke was drafted and served in the U.S. Army between 1945 and 1946, after which he was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal. In 1951, Cooke worked to assist Washington D.C. area African American deaf children who were being sent out of the city for their education while white deaf students from the city were being taught at Kendall School. Cooke worked as a professor at the District of Columbia Teachers College for twenty-two years until 1966 when he was appointed president of the college and served in that post until 1974. In 1978, Cooke worked as a consultant for the World Peace Through Law Center, an organization that advocates for poor and disadvantaged people.

Cooke was a member of the World Veterans Federation, the American Veteran's Committee and served as an officer for the Catholic Interracial Council of Washington, D.C. In 1983, Paul Phillips Cooke Day was declared in Washington, D.C. by former Mayor Marion Barry and in 1986, the University of the District of Columbia awarded

him with an honorary degree and also gave him the U.D.C. Legacy Award in 2004. The university also established the Paul Phillips Cooke Lecture Series and the Paul Phillips Cooke Scholarship Program. Cooke was also active in his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc., which awarded him the Laurel Wreath in 1995.

Cooke passed away on July 4, 2010.

Related Entries

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Garrison Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Shaw Middle School at Garnet-Patterson [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

University of the District of Columbia [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

New York University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Catholic University of America [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Columbia University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Ed.D.

United States Postal Service [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Mail Carrier

District of Columbia Teacher's College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1978 to 1980]

Professr

District of Columbia Teacher's College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1966 to 1974]

President

World Peace Through Law Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1978 to ?]

Consultant

Beacon College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1986]

Professor

Catholic Interracial Council [MEMBEROf]
[from 1944 to ?]

Program Chairman

American Veterans Committee [MEMBEROf]
[from 1948 to ?]

National Chairman

Torch Club of DC [MEMBEROf]
[from 1972 to ?]

President

, Moorland-Springarn Research Center, Howard University.