

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Joan Scott Wallace

PERSON

Wallace, Joan Scott, 1930-

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Joan Scott Wallace;

**Life Dates:** November 8, 1930-March 15, 2018

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Flossmoor, IL

**Occupations:** Federal Government Appointee

## Biographical Note

Academic administrator and cabinet appointee The Honorable Joan Scott Wallace was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 8, 1930. Her mother, Esther, worked as a social worker, and her father, William Edouard, was a painter during the Harlem Renaissance. Many of his works appeared as covers on the NAACP's magazine, *The Crisis*. After graduating from Englewood High School in Chicago in 1948, Wallace attended Bradley University, earning a B.A. in social work. Wallace then went on to attend Columbia University, earning a master's in social work in 1958, and later earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1973.

Beginning her career with the government during the Carter administration, Wallace was named Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in 1977. There she managed administration policy in personnel, equal opportunity and administrative law among other duties. She held that post until 1981, when she became the head of the International Cooperation and Development Agency. In that position, Wallace sent specialists to 100 foreign countries to provide technical assistance in agriculture and managed over 500 research programs. With the election of George H. W. Bush as president, Wallace was a diplomat with the rank of ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and represented the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Wallace retired from the government shortly after the election of President Clinton, and then became the CEO of Americans for Democracy in Africa, a non-profit organization that monitored elections in African countries. Wallace has also served as dean of the Howard University School of Social Work, the director of the Western Michigan School of Social Work and the vice president for administration at Morgan State

University. She also was the first female vice president of the National Urban League under Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Wallace passed away on March 15, 2018.

Since 2000, Wallace has been the commissioner of Volunteer Florida: the Governor's Commission on Community Service.

## Related Entries

**Englewood High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Austin O. Sexton Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bradley University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Columbia University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Northwestern University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Chicago Charter School - North Kenwood/Oakland** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Florida International University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Professor, Associate Professor, Director, Principal Investigator**

**University of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1963 to 1967]

**Social Work Analyst**

**University of Illinois School of Social Work** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1973]

**Assistant/ Associate Professor**

**Barat College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to 1970]

**Associate Professor**

**Howard University School of Social Work** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1989 to 1993]

**Dean/ Professor**

**National Urban League** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1975 to 1976]

**Vice President for Programs**

**Morgan State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1976 to 1977]

**Vice President for Administration**

**United States Department of Agriculture** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1977 to 1981]

**Assistant Secretary of Agriculture**

**Western Michigan University School of Social Work** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1977 to ?]

**Director**

**International Cooperation and Development Agency** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1981 to 1989]

**U.S. Delegation Leader**

**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1989 to 1993]

**Representative to Trinidad and Tobago**

**Americans for Democracy in Africa** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1995 to 1997]

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

**Volunteer Florida!** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Commissioner/ Committee Chair**

**OIC of Broward Cty.** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Chair**

**Ft. Lauderdale Links** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**South Florida Friends** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Parliamentarian**

**Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Stephen Ministry Leadership Team**

