

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Peter F. Hurst, Jr.

PERSON

Hurst, Peter F., 1955-

Alternative Names: Peter F. Hurst, Jr.;

Life Dates: October 29, 1955-

Place of Birth: Houston, Texas, USA

Residence: Palmetto, Florida

Occupations: Bank Executive

Biographical Note

Peter Frederick Hurst, Jr., founder and chief executive officer of the Community's Bank in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was born on October 29, 1955, in Houston, Texas. Raised in the Third Ward of Houston by parents Peter and Ophelia Hurst, Sr., Hurst was an Eagle Scout at the Wheel Ave. Baptist Church. Attending E.L. Blackshear Elementary School and Sidney Lanier Junior High School, Hurst graduated from Mirabeau Lamar High School in 1974 as a member of the National Honor Society. Hurst earned his A.B. degree in accounting, magna cum laude, from Duke University in 1978, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1981.

Hurst clerked for Judge Damon Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 1981, and a year later he joined the Steptoe and Johnson Law Firm in Washington, D.C. From 1984 to 1986, Hurst served in the General Counsel's Office of the Federal Reserve Bank. Moving to New York City, Hurst worked as an investment banker with E.F. Hutton, and in 1987, became senior vice president with Dean Witter. Going into business for himself in 1990, Hurst worked with smaller clients through Bahia Partners and Hurst Capital Partners. In 2001 Hurst created the Community's Bank, opening branches in the Connecticut cities of Hartford, Bridgeport, and Bloomfield. As founder, chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and president of the Urban Financial Group, the company which controls Community's Bank, Hurst runs the only independent, minority owned bank in Connecticut.

Hurst has served on the boards of the Republic New York Corporation; the Bridgeport Area Foundation; the Community Service Society of New York; Boy Scouts of America (Bronx Council); the University of Scranton; and the United American Healthcare Corporation. Hurst was honored in 2003 by the African American Affairs Commission of Connecticut, and in 2004 became the first African American to serve as

grandmaster of the Phineas T. Barnum Parade and Festival in Bridgeport.

Related Entries

Sidney Lanier Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Blackshear Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lamar High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lanier Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Duke School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Federal Reserve Board [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to 1986]

E .F. Hutton [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1987]

Dean Witter [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1990]

Bahia Partners [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Co-founder

Hurst Capitol Partners [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 2001]

Founder

Community's Bank [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200102 to 201309]

Founder

Steptoe & Johnson [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198209 to 1984]

Lawyer

[EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1981 to 198209]

Law Clerk

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Black Student Government [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Treasurer