

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Margaret Peters

PERSON

Peters, Margaret, 1936-

Alternative Names: Margaret Peters;

Life Dates: March 12, 1936-April 1, 2022

Place of Birth: Dayton, Ohio, USA

Residence: Dayton, OH

Occupations: High School Teacher; Historian

Biographical Note

Educator and African American history specialist Margaret Peters was born March 12, 1936 in Dayton, Ohio. Her parents, Mary Margaret Smith Peters, and building contractor Joseph Andrew Peters, were stalwarts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Attending Irving School, Peters graduated from Dayton Roosevelt High School in 1954. At the University of Dayton, she earned a B.A. degree in 1959 and a B.S. degree in 1963. Peters also received her M.A. degree in 1972 and a supervisors certificate from the University of Dayton in 1974.

Peters began her teaching career at Roth High School in 1963. In 1968, as the black community continued agitated for African American history, Peters was appointed Black History Resource Teacher for the Dayton Public Schools. In 1969, she produced *Striving to Overcome: Negro Achievers*, which was published by Dayton Public Schools. Johnson Publishing released Peters' *Ebony Book of Black Achievement* in 1970. She co-authored with her encyclopedic brother, Wendell Peters, the article "Blacks in Ohio History" in 1980. Her writing also included numerous articles for the *Dayton Weekly News*, an African American newspaper, and a column, "From The Root," for the *Dayton Weekly News*, culminating in a 1995 column called "From The Roots." Also in 1995, the Donning Company published her treasury of African American history called *Dayton's African American Heritage*, which went into an expanded edition. She was also co-editor of *A History of Race Relations in the Miami Valley* in 2001. Peters also served as instructor at Sinclair Community College and at Central State University West. After retiring from Colonel White High School in 1993, she served as coordinator of the free after-school tutorial program at Zion Baptist Church.

Peters was the recipient of the 1991 Excellence in Teaching Award for the Midwest

Region from the National Conference of Negro Women; the National Education Association's 1993 Dr. Carter G. Woodson Award; the 1993 Meritorious Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was their 2005 Education Breakfast speaker. From 1993 to 1995, she was elected to the National Executive Council of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Peters was the recipient of many local awards including Dayton Public Schools' Teacher of the Year in 1982 and the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dayton Chapter of the National Forum for Black Administrators. Cited as one of Dayton's Top Ten Women, Peters was a board member of the Dayton African American Legacy Institute, Inc. (DAALI) and earned a block on Dayton's Wright-Dunbar Walk of Fame.

Margaret Peters was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 20, 2006.

Peters passed away on April 1, 2022, at the age of 86.

Related Entries

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

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

University of Dayton [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Thurgood Marshall High School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1963 to 1993]

Teacher

Dayton Public Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to ?]

Negro History Resource Teacher

Zion Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to ?]

Education Coordinator