

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Mildred Jefferson

PERSON

Jefferson, Mildred

**Alternative Names:** Dr. Mildred Jefferson; Mildred Jefferson

**Life Dates:** April 6, 1927-October 18, 2010

**Place of Birth:** Pittsburgh, Texas, USA

**Residence:** Boston, Massachusetts

**Work:** Charlestown, Massachusetts

**Occupations:** Surgeon

## Biographical Note

Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson was born in 1927 in Pittsburg, Texas - the daughter of Gurthie Roberts Jefferson, a public school teacher, and Millard F. Jefferson, a Methodist minister. She attended public schools in East Texas and entered Harvard Medical School in 1947 after receiving a B.A degree summa cum laude from Texas College in Tyler, Texas and a M.S. degree from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

Jefferson became the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School in 1951. She was the first woman to be a surgical intern at Boston City Hospital and the first woman admitted to membership in the Boston Surgical Society. She is, however, best-known for her longtime support and involvement in the “right-to-life movement” in America. She helped to establish the National Right to Life Committee and served three times as its president. She has been a local, regional and national speaker and activist.

After her Harvard Medical School graduation, Jefferson served as a general surgeon with the former Boston University Medical Center and Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at Boston University Medical School.

Jefferson has had a career-long interest in medical jurisprudence, medical ethics and the interface between medicine and law, as well as their impact on public policy and society. As a founding member of state and national “right-to-life” organizations, she is president of Right to Life Crusade.

Jefferson is a founding member of the Board of Governors and a past President of the Value of Life Committee of Massachusetts and is also active with the American Life League and Americans United for Life Legal Defense Fund. Jefferson is also a member of Black Americans for Life and is held in high esteem by Feminists for Life. Jefferson passed away on October 18, 2010.

## Related Entries

**A.L. Turner High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**H.S.**

**Texas College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

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

**M.S.**

**Harvard** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.D.**

**Boston University Medical Center Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Surgeon**

**American Medical Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Massachusetts Medical Society** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Boston Medical Society** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Elected Member**

**National Right to Life Committee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**President**

**Massachusetts Citizens for Life** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founding Member**

