

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald Brown

PERSON

Brown, Ronald, 1953-2008

Alternative Names: Ronald Brown;

Life Dates: August 1, 1953-April 28, 2008

Place of Birth: Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Work: Atlanta, Georgia

Occupations: Investment Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Atlanta Life Financial Group President and CEO Ronald DeWayne Brown was born on August 1, 1953 in Cleveland, Ohio to Bettye Williams and Clifford Brown. He was raised in New York City by his mother and stepfather, Gifford Williams. Brown was a graduate of Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in political science and economics. He was also a graduate of the Financial Management Program at Columbia University School of Business.

Brown began his career in 1977 working with Equifax in Atlanta, Georgia where he held various managerial positions. In 1988, he began his tenure with the Dun and Bradstreet Corporation and its successor companies, becoming the President and CEO of Sales Technology. There, he developed sales force automation software for the consumer packaged goods and pharmaceutical industries and was instrumental in taking the company public. In 1998, Brown became the CEO of Strategic Technologies, a premier market research firm with operations in 90 countries. By 2000, Brown was the President of Synavant, a global leader in customer relationship management software and solutions for the pharmaceutical industry.

In 2001, Brown joined the board of directors of Atlanta Life and became the CEO and managing partner of Variant Group. Charles E. Cornelius, President of Atlanta Life Financial Group retired, and in 2004, Brown was appointed the sixth President and CEO in the 100 year history of Atlanta Life Financial. He was also the Chairman of Jackson Securities, a full service investment bank, now affiliated with Atlanta Life, founded by the late mayor of Atlanta, Maynard Jackson.

Brown served as a business mentor at Morehouse College and the Georgia 100 Mentor program. He was the 2005 recipient of the Rainbow PUSH Wall Street Project

Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Business Advisor of the Year Award. He was also a member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta Executive Committee and the Rotary Club of Atlanta.

Brown passed away on April 28, 2008 at age 54.

Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 28, 2007.

Related Entries

George Washington Carver Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 129 John H. Finley School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 139 Frederick Douglass School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.H.S. 104 Simon Baruch [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Seward Park High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Morehouse College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Equifax, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

First Atlanta Bank, N.A. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Sales Technologies, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to 2003]

President & CEO

Atlanta Life Financial Group, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2003 to 2008]

President & CEO

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Philander Smith College [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Emory Healthcare, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Georgia Power Company [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Morehouse College [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Mentor