

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael Jack

PERSON

Jack, Michael, 1951-

**Alternative Names:** Jack, Michael, 1951-

**Life Dates:** June 6, 1951-

**Place of Birth:** Germany, Berlin

**Residence:** New York

**Occupations:** Television Station General Manager

## Biographical Note

Television manager Michael Jack was born on June 6, 1951 in Berlin, Germany to Johanna Magrete Kresse and Huston Jack, Jr., a military veteran. He moved to Massachusetts at age two, however, he relocated frequently with his father to several military bases in the United States and Germany. Jack attended John F. Kennedy High School in Willingboro, New Jersey and Heidelberg High School in Heidelberg, Germany. After graduation, Jack enrolled in Pennsylvania's Haverford College where he earned his B.A. degree in political science.

After graduating from college, Jack worked for WABC-TV in New York, a subsidiary of Capital Cities ABC-TV, where he would serve for nineteen years. Jack moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1980, serving as an account executive for ABC sales spots in the city until 1981, when he became a national sales manager at KGO-TV in San Francisco, California. He was promoted to local sales manager at KGO and remained at the station until 1986.

In 1986, Jack moved to Los Angeles becoming Capital Cities' National Sales Office Sales Manager, where he would work for a decade. In 1996, Jack joined NBC, working for Los Angeles' KNBC as Vice President of Sales. In his role, Jack oversaw the entire department on both local and national levels. Three years later, Jack became president and general manager of Columbus, Ohio's NBC affiliate, WCMH-TV station, succeeding executive Bill Katsafanas in managing the entire station. During Jack's tenure, WCMH led the market in early morning news, late news and prime time markets.

An industry veteran, Jack became president and general manager of WRC-TV in Washington, D.C., jumping from the thirty-fourth largest television market in the nation to the eighth-largest. The same year, Jack was named NBC's Vice

President of Diversity by General Electric Company's chairman and chief executive officer, Bob Wright. He became the President and General Manger of NBC New York in 2010. Jack serves on a variety of boards, including the Greater Washington Urban League, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Michael Jack resides in New York with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Truce.

Michael Jack was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 28, 2007.

## Related Entries

**Jack, Mary** [SPOUSEOF]  
Wife

**Jack, Truce** [PARENTOF]  
Daughter

**Jack, Jr., Huston** [CHILDOF]  
Father

**Kresse, Johanna Magrete** [CHILDOF]  
Mother

**Jack, Clifford** [SIBLINGOF]  
Brother

□  
Sibling

**Haverford School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**WABC-TV** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1977 to 1996]

**Sales and Management**

**ABC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1981]

**Account Executive**

**National Broadcasting Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1996 to 1999]

**Sales Manager**

**WCMH-TV (Columbus, OH)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1999 to 2002]

**President and General Manager**

**NBC Television Network** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2002 to ?]

**President and General Manager**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington** [MEMBEROF]  
Volunteer

**Urban League** [MEMBEROF]  
**Member**

**D.C. Chamber of Commerce** [MEMBEROF]  
**Member**