

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Imam Vernon Fareed

PERSON

Fareed, Vernon, 1953-2017

Alternative Names: Imam Vernon Fareed;

Life Dates: December 31, 1953-September 12, 2017

Place of Birth: Norfolk, Virginia, USA

Work: Norfolk, VA

Occupations: Civic Leader; Imam

Biographical Note

Civic and religious leader Vernon M. Fareed was born on December 31, 1953 in Norfolk, Virginia. Throughout his childhood, his parents instilled strong values that followed him through his life, despite segregation. Raised a Christian, he joined the Nation of Islam at the age of eighteen. He converted to the traditional form of Islam in 1975.

In 2000, Fareed became a member of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC). He went on to become the chair of the Tidewater Chapter and serve on its state board. In 2005 Imam Fareed became the first Muslim of African-American descent to offer the invocation for the Virginia State Senate. Fareed also wrote for the New Journal and Guide newspaper in 1983 as a columnist, and he currently serves as the Manager and President of Salaam Investment Group, LLC. Since 1976, Fareed has been the Imam of Masjid [Mosque] William Salaam which helps to serve almost 6,000 Muslims in the Hampton Roads' community.

For his religious work, Fareed received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Bishop Jessie Featherston at Trinity Mission University in 1997. He also received VCIC's National Humanitarian Award in 2006 for his community involvement. Fareed has served on many boards including the Ministers Advisory Committee to Norfolk's Police Chief, the FBI Multi-Cultural Advisory Board and Religions for Peace RFP-USA, the largest representative interreligious organization in the world. In addition, he was selected as the National Convener of the Sectional Imams in 2009. Fareed wrote the spiritual book Uniformity in Prayer published in 2008.

Vernon Fareed was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 12, 2010.

Fareed passed away on September 12, 2017 at age 63.

Related Entries

Smallwood School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Old Dominion University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Madison School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Matthew Fontaine Maury High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Masjid William Salaam [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to ?]

Imam

Fareed's Fragrances [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 1996]

Owner

Naval Aviation Depot [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1993]

Training Leader

Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Tidewater Chapter Chair

National Equity Fund (NEF) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Religions for Peace [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Executive Board Member