

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wayne Embry

PERSON

Embry, Wayne, 1937-

**Alternative Names:** Wayne Embry;

**Life Dates:** March 26, 1937-

**Place of Birth:** Springfield, Ohio, USA

**Residence:** Centerville, OH

**Work:** Toronto, ON

**Occupations:** Basketball Player; Basketball Team Manager

## Biographical Note

Basketball team manager and basketball player Wayne Richard Embry was born on March 26, 1937 in Springfield, Ohio. After graduating from Tecumseh High School, Embry attended Miami University and graduated in 1958 with his B.S. degree in education. While there, he was a star basketball player in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

In 1958, Embry was drafted by the St. Louis Hawks in the third round of the National Basketball Association (NBA) player draft. Embry went on to play in the NBA from 1959 to 1969 for several successful franchises, including the Cincinnati Royals and the Milwaukee Bucks. He played with NBA Hall of Fame inductee Bill Russell and contributed significantly to the Boston Celtics team that won the 1968 NBA Championship. In 1972, Embry was named general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks and became the first African American general manager in NBA league history, as well as the first black general manager of a major U.S. team sport. From 1985 to 1992, Embry served as vice president and general manager of the Cleveland Cavaliers. He went on to become the first African American NBA team president with the Cavaliers in 1994. Under the guidance of Embry, the Cleveland Cavaliers averaged forty-five wins and had nine playoff appearances over twelve seasons. Embry was appointed senior basketball advisor to the general manager for the Toronto Raptors in 2004, and then became the senior advisor to the president one year later. On January 26, 2006, Embry was named interim general manager for the Raptors.

Embry was selected to play on the National Basketball Association's All-Pro team in five consecutive seasons between 1961 and 1965. He was chosen as "NBA Executive

of the Year” by Sporting News magazine in 1992 and 1998. Embry was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a contributor to the class of 1999. He was also inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of the charter class. He is the 2013 recipient of the Ohio Heritage Award, which recognizes an Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame inductee for their contributions to the State of Ohio off the court.

Embry and his wife, Terri Embry, live in Scottsdale, Arizona. They have three children: Debbie, Jull, and Wayne, Jr.

Wayne Richard Embry was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 17, 2013 and August 18, 2017.

## Related Entries

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

**Cincinnati Royals** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1966 to 1969]

**Center/Forward**

**Boston Celtics** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to 1976]

**Center/Forward**

**Milwaukee Bucks** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 1998]

**Center/Forward**

**Milwaukee Bucks** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1972 to 1979]

**General Manager**

**Cleveland Cavaliers** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1986 to 1999]

**General Manager**

**Toronto Raptors** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2006 to 2006]

**General Manager**