

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

PERSON

Brown, David , 1920-

Alternative Names: Brown, David , 1920-;

Life Dates: August 26, 1920-

Place of Birth: Memphis, Tennessee

Residence: Northbrook, IL (from ? to ?)

Occupations: Soldier

Biographical Note

Enlisted Soldier David Brown was born on August 26, 1920, in Memphis, Tennessee. Brown graduated from Manassas High School in Memphis in 1939. Then, in 1943, four years after completing high school, and three days after he and his wife were married, Brown was drafted into the United States Army.

In 1944, Brown was deployed during World War II with the 490th Port Battalion, 226 Port Company European Theater, where he served as a technician 4th Grade. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Brown landed on the shores of Utah Beach alongside 23,000 other men as allied forces stormed the beaches at Normandy. The following year, while still serving in Europe, he would travel to England, France and Belgium. In December of 1945, Brown received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Army. Following the end of the War, he returned to the United States and was discharged from the military in a ceremony at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Brown then traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended Maplewood Refrigeration, a vocational school. After completing training there in 1948, Brown briefly worked as a refrigeration engineer. He also attended the Carrier Corporation, another vocational institute in Syracuse, New York, where he received further schooling in AC engineering. Brown would go on to work as a refrigeration and air conditioning engineer at various companies including Beaumont Medical, System Air, and Brown Industrial Corporation.

Brown has been the recipient of many awards and honors. In 2004, he was the featured veteran in Studs Terkel's production 'The Good War', showcased in Skokie, Illinois. Then, in 2009, after contributing to the History Channel's program 'A Distant Shore: African Americans of D-Day', Brown was awarded an Emmy plaque from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. In 2010, during a ceremony in Northbrook, Illinois, he was awarded the

Chevalier of the Legion of Honor medal, the highest decoration bestowed on those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France.

Brown was married to Mae Brown and they have two children, David, Jr. and Sharon.

David Brown was interviewed by 'The HistoryMakers' on November 4, 2013.

Related Entries

Brown, George [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Brown, Rudy []
Sibling

Brown, Mary [SIBLINGOF]
Sister

Brown, Grover [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Brown, Leola [SIBLINGOF]
Sister

Brown, David, Jr. [PARENTOF]
Son

Rossmark, Sharon [PARENTOF]
Daughter

Brown, George [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Brown, Rudy []
Sibling

Brown, Mary [SIBLINGOF]
Sister

Brown, Grover [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Brown, Leola [SIBLINGOF]
Sister

Brown, David, Jr. [PARENTOF]
Son

Rossmark, Sharon [PARENTOF]
Daughter

Brown, Mamie Ella [CHILDOF]
Mother

Brown, David Budlam (ph.) [CHILDOF]
Father

Manassas High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1939]

Maplewood Refrigeration [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1948]

Carrier Corporation [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Manassas High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1939]

Maplewood Refrigeration [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1948]

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Central Refrigeration [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Refrigeration Engineer

Central Refrigeration [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Refrigeration Engineer

Hammel Refrigeration [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1948 to ?]

Refrigeration Engineer

Hammel Refrigeration [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1948 to ?]

Refrigeration Engineer

Beaumont Medical [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1951 to 1975]

Refrigeration/AC Engineer

Beaumont Medical [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1951 to 1975]

Refrigeration/AC Engineer

System Air [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to 1985]

AC Engineer

System Air [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to 1985]

AC Engineer

Brown Industrial Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to ?]

industrial Heating & Cooling Engineer

Brown Industrial Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1985 to ?]

industrial Heating & Cooling Engineer

[MEMBEROF]