Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul Berry

Berry, Paul, 1944-
Alternative Names: Paul Berry;
Life Dates: February 15, 1944-
Place of Birth: Detroit, Michigan, USA
Residence: Royal Oak, MD
Work: Arlington, VA
Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Paul Berry was born on February 15, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan, and was raised by his grandmother Annie M. Talley. Berry joined the U.S. Air Force in 1961 and graduated from the Department of Defense Information School. He went on to serve with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) assigned to the Tuy Hoa Air Force Base in Vietnam, where he worked as program director and
sportscaster. While on assignment, Berry established the first independent FM radio station in South Vietnam.

In 1969, Berry was hired as an anchor and reporter at the ABC-owned outlet WXYZ-TV in Detroit, Michigan. In 1972, he joined ABC-7 (WJLA-TV) in Washington, D.C., where he served as senior news anchor. Berry went on to establish two of WJLA’s community service programs, "Crimesolvers" and "Seven on Your Side."

In 1999, Berry left the news desk and hosted Washington, D.C.'s “The Paul Berry Show” for a number of years. He has also produced and hosted his own nationally syndicated weekly radio talk show, “Home & Family Finances,” which is now entitled “Family Financials with Paul Berry.” The show is owned by Berry, sponsored by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), and airs on Radio America Network. In addition, Berry established and heads the media consulting business Paul L. Berry & Associates, LLC. He is also a licensed realtor and founder of R & B Travel Agency.

Berry has been a member of several civic, charitable and professional organizations. He served on the boards of Ford's Theatre, The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, The Neediest Kids, Inc., The Washington Jesuit Academy, and the Paul Berry Academic Scholarship Foundation. He was a member of the Talbot County Tax Assessment Board; named president of the Chesapeake Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; and serves as commissioner for Maryland Public Television. In 1982, Berry was the winner of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Ted Yates Award. Also, in 1982, Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry honored Berry by declaring November 12, "Paul Berry Day in the District." He received the 1986 Humanitarian Award of the National Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Leadership Conference; the 1989
Mid-Atlantic Professional Golfers' Association - Citizens Award; and the 1989 Olender Foundation’s Generous Heart Award. Washingtonian Magazine named Berry "Washingtonian of the Year" in 1991. He also won the 1993 Capital Region Emmy Award for Outstanding News Anchor, and in 1994, he was voted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences "Silver Circle." In addition, Berry has received community service awards from the National Capital Optimist Club and the Associated Press.

Berry is married to Amy Berry; they live in Easton, Maryland and have three children: Talley, Hudson and Paul.

Paul Berry was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 28, 2014.

Related Entries

**Cass Technical High School** [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

**Armed Forces Radio and Television Service** [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from ? to ?]

**Program Director and Sportscaster**

**Family Financials with Paul Berry** [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from ? to ?]

**Host**

**United States Air Force** [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from 1961 to ?]

**WXYZ-TV** [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from 1969 to 1972]

**Anchor - Reporter**
WJLA TV [EmployeeOf]
[from 1972 to ?]

Senior News Anchor

The Paul Berry Show [EmployeeOf]
[from 1999 to ?]

Host

Ford's Theatre [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

The Neediest Kids, Inc. [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

The Washington Jesuit Academy [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

Paul Berry Academic Scholarship Foundation [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Founder and Board Member

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

President - Chesapeake Chapter

Maryland Public Television [MemberOf]
[from ? to ?]

Commissioner