

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mark Stansbury

PERSON

**Stansbury, Mark L., Sr., 1942-**

**Alternative Names:** Mark Stansbury;

**Life Dates:** April 5, 1942-

**Place of Birth:** Memphis, Tennessee, USA

**Residence:** Memphis, TN

**Work:** Memphis, TN

**Occupations:** Radio Talk Show Host; Academic  
Administrator

## Biographical Note

Gospel radio show host and academic administrator Markham “Mark” L. Stansbury, Sr. was born on April 5, 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee to Willie and Eliza Markham Stansbury. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, where he was editor of the yearbook. In 1960, at age eighteen, Stansbury was hired as a radio personality and gospel announcer at

Memphis, Tennessee's WDIA-AM, where he has worked for over fifty years. He went on to receive his B.A. degree in history from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee in 1966.

Upon graduation from Lane College, Stansbury was named the school's public relations director. He then took a job with Holiday Inns, Inc. in 1969 as a community relations manager, where he worked until 1981. From 1983 to 1987, Stansbury was an insurance agent for Union Central Life Insurance Company and American United Insurance Company, and then served as special assistant to the governor of the State of Tennessee from 1987 until 1989. Stansbury was named assistant to the president of the University of Memphis in 1989, and went on to work for four university presidents. In addition, Stansbury has served as vice president of advancement at LeMoyne-Owen College and interim president of Shelby State Community College (now Southwest Tennessee Community College). He was also a regular photographer for the Memphis World and Tri-State Defender, and briefly worked as a reporter and copy editor for The Commercial Appeal.

Stansbury has been affiliated with or served on the boards of Leadership Memphis, E 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District, St. Andrew AME Church, Memphis Race Relations and Diversity Institute, Shelby Farms, YMCA, Goals of Memphis, and the University of Memphis Foundation. He was appointed to the Shelby County Historical Commission, and served as an advisory board member of South Central Bell. He was a NAACP Freedom Fund Gala Coordinator; past president of the Public Relations Society of America-Memphis Chapter; and served on the Steering Committee for the United Negro College Fund. Stansbury was also a founder of Diversity Memphis, an organization which fights to eliminate bigotry.

He is a member of the United Negro College Fund

Hall of Fame, and has received the Award of Merit, the highest award presented to a citizen by the Mayor of Memphis. Stansbury was also named Parent of the Year by the Memphis Rotary Club, and was the first person to receive the University of Memphis' Campus Unity Award in 1993.

Mark Stansbury was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 25, 2014.

## **Related Entries**

**Leath Elementary** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Booker T. Washington High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Lane College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**WDIA** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1958 to ?]

**Reporter, Radio Personality**

**WJAK** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1964 to 1966]

**Disc Jockey**

**Lane College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1966 to 1968]

**Director of Public Relations**

**Holiday Inns, Inc** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to 1981]

**Community Relations Manager**

**Union Central LIC / American United LIC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to 1987]

**Agent**

**State of Tennessee** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1989]

**Assistant to Governor**

**University of Memphis** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1989 to 2008]

**Assistant to President**

**Shelby State Community College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1994 to 1996]

**Interim President**

**LeMoyne-Owen College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2008 to 2009]

**VP of Advancement**

**Commercial Appeal** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1967]

**Reporter/Copy Editor**

**Beale Street Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Memphis Race Relations** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**NAACP** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**South Central Bell** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Memphis State University Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1978 to ?]

**Secretary**

**Public Relations Society of America** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1980 to ?]

**President**

**Leadership Memphis** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1982 to ?]

**Selective Service** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

**Shelby County 9-1-1** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

**Chairman**

**WDIA Goodwill Fund** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to ?]

**Chairman**

**NCCJ** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to ?]

**Chairman**

**Hooks Institute for Social Change** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to ?]

**Shelby Farms Conservancy** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2008 to ?]

**Shelby County Historical Commission** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2012 to ?]

