

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Leon Bibb

PERSON

Bibb, Leon Douglas, 1944-

Alternative Names: Leon Bibb;

Life Dates: October 5, 1944-

Place of Birth: Butler, Alabama, USA

Residence: Shaker Heights, OH

Work: Cleveland, OH

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Leon Douglas Bibb was born on October 5, 1944 in Butler, Alabama to Georgia and Leon Bibb. At the age of one, his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he grew up and graduated from Glenville High School. Bibb received his B.S. degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University in 1966. He then went on to study radio, TV and film as a graduate student. He also served in the Vietnam War and was awarded a Bronze Star.

In the late 1960s, Bibb worked as a news reporter for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio. He was hired as a reporter for WTOL-TV in Toledo, Ohio in 1971, and worked as a news anchor and reporter for WCMH-TV in Columbus, Ohio from 1972 to 1979. In 1976, while at WCMH-TV, Bibb became Ohio's first African American primetime anchor. Then, in 1979, he moved to WKYC-TV in Cleveland, and was promoted to primary news anchor for the Monday through Friday newscasts in 1986. In 1995, Bibb was hired as a news anchor and reporter for WEWS-TV. He has narrated and hosted many shows at WEWS-TV, including "My Ohio with Leon Bibb," "Leon Bibb's Perspective," "Kaleidoscope," and a series called "Our Hometown." Bibb has interviewed numerous political leaders and notable figures, including President Barack Obama, President George H. W. Bush, Neil Armstrong, and James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, Bibb has written several short stories and poems, many of which have been published.

Bibb has won six local Emmy Awards and received several citations from the Cleveland Press Club for excellence in journalism. He has also received the Distinguished Journalist Award from the Society for Professional Journalists, and

Awards of Excellence from Cleveland State University and the Radio-TV Council. Bibb has been inducted into the Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, Glenville High School Hall of Fame, Bowling Green State University School of Communications Hall of Fame, Associated Press Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame, Sigma Delta Chi Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In 1996, Governor George Voinovich appointed Bibb to the Board of Trustees at Bowling Green State University, where he also served as chairman.

Bibb lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio with his wife, Marguerite. They have two daughters: Jennifer and Alison.

Leon Bibb was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 13, 2014.

Related Entries

Bowling Green State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bowling Green State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S. in Journalism

Glenville High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

H.S. Diploma

Empire Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Miles Standish Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

WCMH - TV 4 [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197202 to 197901]

News Anchor

WKYC - TV 3 [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197901 to 199503]

News Anchor

WTOL - TV 11 [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197103 to 197202]

News Reporter

WEWS - TV 5 [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19950505 to ?]

News Anchor

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees [MEMBEROF]
[from 1996 to ?]

Trustee and Chairman of the Board