

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Brenda Wood

PERSON

Wood, Brenda, 1955-

Alternative Names: Brenda Wood;

Life Dates: September 8, 1955-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Brenda Blackmon Wood was born on September 8, 1955 in Washington, D.C. to Welvin Bray and Bernice Blackmon. Wood graduated from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Maryland in 1973. She went on to receive her B.A. degree in speech communication and mass media from Loma Linda University in Southern California in 1977.

Upon graduation in 1977, Wood was hired as a news reporter for WAAY-TV in Huntsville, Alabama. In 1978, she left that market for a brief time to serve as a general assignment reporter at WSM-TV in Nashville, Tennessee. One year later, Wood returned to WAAY-TV as the evening news anchor. In 1980, she moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where she spent eight years as the evening weekday news anchor for WMC-TV. In 1988, Wood was hired as the evening news anchor and reporter at Atlanta, Georgia's WAGA-TV, where she also hosted the Emmy award-winning news magazine show, Minute by Minute. She then joined WXIA-TV in Atlanta in 1997, where she anchors the 6pm and 11pm weekday newscasts, as well as her signature newscast, The Daily 11 at 7 with Brenda Wood. Wood was also co-producer and host of WXIA-TV's Emmy award-winning prime time show, Journeys with Brenda Wood, which has received the National Association of Black Journalists' 1998 award for Community Affairs Programming.

Throughout her career Wood has received numerous honors and awards, including eighteen Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Southeast Region; six awards from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists (AABJ); and three awards from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters (GAB). In 2013 she was named Georgia Woman of the Year by the Governor's Office of the Georgia Women's Commission, and received the Legacy Award from the Atlanta

Business League. Wood has also been named Who's Who in Atlanta; awarded the NAACP's Phoenix Award for "Best News Anchor," and named "Best Local News Anchor" by Atlanta Magazine in 1998. Wood has also received an award from the Georgia Chapter of Women in Communication, the Gabriel Award of Merit from the National Association of Catholic Churches, and a journalism award from the Georgia Psychological Association, as well as several awards and honors from local civic and community organizations.

Wood is a member of the NATAS, the NABJ, the AABJ, the Atlanta Press Club, and Women in Film. She serves on the boards of Kenny Leon's True Colors Theater Company and Chayil, Inc., a nonprofit that helps domestic abuse victims. In addition, Wood serves on several local advisory boards in the Atlanta area.

Wood lives in Atlanta, Georgia and has two daughters, Kristen and Kandis.

Brenda Wood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 21, 2014.

Related Entries

Takoma Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Loma Linda University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A. Speech Communication & Mass Media

Oakwood Adventist Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

WMC TV, Memphis [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1988]

Anchor/Reporter

WAGA-TV (Television Station: Atlanta,Ga.) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1997]

News Anchor/Reporter

WXIA-TV, Atlanta [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Anchor/Reporter

WAAY TV, Huntsville [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197707 to 1980]

News Reporter/Anchor

WSM TV, Nashville [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197807 to 197809]

News Reporter

National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Atlanta Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Atlanta Press Club [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Women in Film [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Chayil, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board