

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jim Vance

PERSON

Vance, Jim

**Alternative Names:** Jim Vance;

**Life Dates:** January 10, 1942-July 22, 2017

**Place of Birth:** Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA

**Work:** Washington, DC

**Occupations:** Broadcast Journalist

## Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Jim Vance was born on January 10, 1942 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. In 1964, Vance earned his B.S. degree in secondary education from Cheyney State College (now Cheyney University) in Cheyney, Pennsylvania.

Upon graduation, Vance worked as a teacher in the Philadelphia Public Schools, and was then hired as a print journalist for The Philadelphia Independent. During this time he also worked weekends at the radio

station WHAT-AM. In 1968, Vance moved to WKBS-TV in Philadelphia, where he served as a reporter and interviewed Muhammad Ali. The following year, Vance joined WRC-TV NBC 4 in Washington, D.C., where he has worked for over forty-five years.

At WRC-TV, Vance worked as co-anchor with Glenn Rinker between 1972 and 1976, and then as a co-anchor with Sue Simmons from 1976 to 1980. Vance and Simmons were one of the first African American co-anchors of a major market newscast. Since 1989, Vance has co-anchored with Doreen Gentzler and they are the longest-running anchor team in Washington, D.C.

Vance has earned numerous awards and honors, including seventeen Emmys and membership in the Silver Circle of the Washington Chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. He holds the Ted Yates Award for outstanding community service and has been honored as “Washingtonian of the Year.” Vance was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame in 2007, and on May 2, 2008, he was inducted into the National Alumni Hall of Fame of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. He has also appeared in the documentaries, *Without Bias* and *The Nine Lives of Marion Barry*; and the feature film *State of Play*.

Vance lived in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Kath McCampbell Vance. They have three children and one grandson.

Jim Vance was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 19, 2014.

Vance passed away on July 22, 2017 at age 75.

## **Related Entries**

**Cheyney University of Pennsylvania** [\[STUDENTOF\]](#)

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Ardmore Avenue Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Lower Merion High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ardmore Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**The Philadelphia Independent** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to 1968]

**Print Journalist**

**WHAT-AM** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to 1968]

**Philadelphia Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to ?]

**Teacher**

**WKBS-TV** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1969]

**Reporter**

**WRC-TV NBC 4** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to ?]

**News Anchor**

**Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

