

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Tom A. Goss

PERSON

Goss, Tom A., 1946-

Alternative Names: Tom A. Goss;

Life Dates: July 6, 1946-

Place of Birth: Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

Residence: Detroit, MI

Work: Detroit, MI

Occupations: Athletic Director;

Biographical Note

Insurance chief executive and athletic director Tom A. Goss was born on July 6, 1946 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He attended Knoxville's Austin High School, where he was a standout football star in the 1960s. Goss went on to attend the University of Michigan and was named to the All-Big Ten team as a defensive tackle during his senior year. He graduated in 1968 with his B.S. degree in education.

Goss was first hired by Procter & Gamble in 1969. In 1970, he became a regional manager at R. J. Reynolds Industries, and was then named regional vice president for sales at Del Monte Corporation where he worked until the mid-1980s. Goss subsequently returned to Michigan as vice president of sales and marketing at Detroit's Faygo Beverages. In 1987, he moved to California and served as an executive at National Beverage Corporation until 1993, when he was named president and chief operating officer of PIA Merchandising. In March of 1997, Goss established and became managing partner/advisor of The Goss Group, Inc., a commercial insurance brokerage firm. That same year, he applied for and was hired as the first African American athletic director of the University of Michigan.

In 2000, Goss resigned from the University of Michigan and became chairman of The Goss Group, Inc. In 2001, The Goss Group, Marsh Inc. and the GMAC Insurance Group announced the establishment of a joint venture company, Goss LLC, where Goss also went on to serve as chairman.

Goss has served on numerous boards throughout his career, including the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute, the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan, the Detroit

Tigers Baseball Advisory Board, United American Healthcare Corporation, and Omni Care Health Plan Inc. He was the former board chair of the Detroit Workforce Development Board, and has served as a trustee to the African American Experience Fund of the National Parks Service & Foundation. His awards include the 2001 University of Michigan's Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Goss is married to Carol Goss. They have three children: Anika, Fatima and Maloni.

Tom Goss was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 1, 2014.

Related Entries

Austin-East Magnet High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Del Monte Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Regional Vice President For Sales

Procter & Gamble [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1970]

R.J. Reynolds Industries [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to ?]

Regional Manager

National Beverage Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1993]

Executive

PIA Merchandising [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 1997]

President and Chief Operating Officer

The Goss Group, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2000]

Founder and Managing Partner/Advisor; Chairman

University of Michigan [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2000]

Athletic Director

Goss LLC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2001 to ?]

Chairman

Faygo Beverages [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Detroit Tigers Baseball Advisory Board [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

United American Healthcare Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Omni Care Health Plan Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Detroit Workforce Development Board [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Chair

African American Experience Fund [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee