

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with C. Bernard Fulp

PERSON

Fulp, Cyrus Bernard, 1935-

Alternative Names: C. Bernard Fulp; Cyrus Bernard Fulp

Life Dates: October 9, 1935-

Place of Birth: Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA

Residence: Boston, MA

Occupations: ; Bank Executive

Biographical Note

Bank executive C. Bernard Fulp was born on October 9, 1935 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to Amanda Murray Fulp and Cyrus Fulp. Fulp graduated from Atkins High School in Winston-Salem in 1953, and received his B.S. degree in elementary education from Winston-Salem State University in 1957. Fulp then served in the U.S. Air Force until 1962, and went on to earn his M.A. degree in education from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut in 1963. He also

completed a program in management development at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration in 1978.

Fulp began his career in banking as a loan manager at the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company branch in Winston-Salem in 1964. He also worked at State Street Bank and Trust Company and Unity Bank and Trust Company before joining the New England Merchants National Bank in 1970, where he eventually worked his way up to the position of senior vice president. In this role, he was responsible for the bank's emerging middle market group. When New England Merchants National Bank merged with The CBT Corporation in 1983, creating the Bank of New England – then the second largest bank in New England – Fulp was promoted to executive vice president in charge of the bank's private banking division, making him the first African American to assume the role. Fulp left the Bank of New England after it was acquired by FleetBoston Financial in 1991. He then worked for the accounting and advisory firm of Grant Thornton LLP until 1994 when he co-founded Middlesex Bank and Trust in Newton, Massachusetts. Fulp led Middlesex Bank until 2002, when it was acquired by Connecticut's Westport National Bank. In 2004, Fulp became the president of GoBiz Solutions, Inc.

Fulp received numerous awards, including the 2005 Mary Hudson Onley Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement. He served on the Small Business Administration Boston Advisory Council from 1972 to 1982. Fulp was named by Governor Deval L. Patrick to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and chaired its Fiscal and Administrative Affairs Committee. He served as a member of the Lesley University Board of Trustees, and on the board of directors for the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, and The Ron Burton Foundation.

Fulp is married to Carol Fulp, and has three children: Deanna, Rachael, and Cyrus.

C. Bernard Fulp was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 21, 2016.

Related Entries

Harvard Business School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

PMD

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

Master of Arts

Winston-Salem State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Science

Atkins Academic and Technology High School
[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

high school diploma

14th Street School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wachovia Bank & Trust [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1965]

Loan Manager

State Street Bank & Trust [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1965 to 1968]

Assistant Treasurer

Unity Bank and Trust Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1970]

Assistant Vice President

New England Mercantile/Bank of New England

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1991]

Executive Vice President

Grant Thornton [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1994]

Manager

Middlesex Bank & Trust Co. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1994 to 2001]

Chairman & President

GoBiz Solutions, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2004 to ?]

Chairman & President

Suffolk University School of Business Administration

Advisory Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Massachusetts Red Cross [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

American Institute of Banking [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Opportunities Industrialization Center [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Small

Business Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Waban Improvement Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President/Treasurer

**United States Small Business Administration
Regional Advisory Council** [MEMBEROF]
[from 1972 to 1986]

Member

Ron Burton Training Village [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to ?]

Director

Lesley University [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to 2004]

Trustee

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education [MEMBEROF]
[from 2008 to 2014]

Director

Virgin Island Next Generation Network [MEMBEROF]
[from 2012 to 2015]

Director

Massachusetts State College Building Authority
[MEMBEROF]
[from 2012 to 2014]

Director

Massachusetts High Technology Council [MEMBEROF]
[from 2014 to ?]

Director

