

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joanne Collins

PERSON

Collins, Joanne, 1935-

Alternative Names: Joanne Collins;

Life Dates: August 29, 1935-

Place of Birth: Kansas City , Missouri, USA

Residence: Kansas City, MO

Work: Kansas City, MO

Occupations: Political Leader; City Council Member

Biographical Note

Political leader and city council member Joanne Collins was born on August 29, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri to William and Mary Frances Mitchell. She attended Attucks Elementary School, Northeast Junior High School, and Sumner High School. Collins attended the University of Kansas from 1953 to 1955, and went on to receive her B.A. degree in political science from Stephens College and her M.A. degree in business administration from Baker University.

After attending the University of Kansas, Collins worked as a postal clerk in Kansas City, Missouri, as a real estate agent for Robert Hughes and Company, and in community outreach at a local bank. During this time, she was an active member in the League of Women Voters and the Missouri and Jackson County Republican committees, and was appointed vice-chair of the Missouri advisory committee for the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In 1974, she was the first African American woman elected to serve on the Kansas City Council. Collins was re-elected to the position in the 1975, 1979, 1983, and 1987 general elections before retiring in 1991. During her tenure as councilwoman, she served as chair of the youth development committee, the community action committee, and the finance and audit committee, and as mayor pro-tem and acting mayor. Collins also worked part-time at United Missouri Bank while on city council.

Collins has volunteered with over fifty organizations. She served on the MOKAN Advisory Board and the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center Advisory Board/KU. She was a member of Salvation Army, Church Women United/KCMO, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and a lifelong member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church/KCKS.

She was also a member of the Black Women's Political Congress, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Midwest Christian Counseling Center, and the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City.

Collins received the Harriet Tubman Award from A.M.E. Zion in 1976, the Living Legend Award from the Heartland Women's Leadership Council in 2010, and the James C. Denny Spirit Award from the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City in 2013.

Collins has two children, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two step-children, and six step-grandchildren.

Joanne Collins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 7, 2019.

Related Entries

Crispus Attucks Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

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

Baker University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Charles L. Sumner High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Stephens College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Hull House [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2001 to ?]

Clendenning Medical Library [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Library Clerk

Robert Hughes and Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to ?]

Real Estate Agent

Kansas City, Missouri City Council [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Councilwoman, Third District at Large

United Missouri Bank [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company Junior Association [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to 1979]

Hall's Crown Center - Retail Sales Division [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1973 to 1975]

Wheatley Provident Hospital [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1964 to 1972]

Administrative Assistant

The Greater Kansas City Baptist and Community Hospital Association, Inc.

[EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1964 to 1972]

Administrative Assistant

United States Department of Commerce [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1970 to 1971]

Metropolitan Kansas City Supervisor for the Decennial Census

United States Post Office [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1960 to 1963]

Postal Clerk

[EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

American Red Cross, Kansas City, Missouri Chapter [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

National Council on Alcoholism [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Kansas City Museum Association [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Black Archives, Inc. [MEMBEROf]

[from 1971 to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Coalition of 100 Black Women [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

League of Women Voters [MEMBEROf]

[from 1983 to ?]

Member

American Public Works Association [MEMBEROf]

[from 1984 to ?]

Member

National Alliance of Postal & Federal Employees Auxiliary, Kansas City, Missouri

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

President

Women in Community Service [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Black Military Historical Society, Inc. [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Secretary

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Hospital [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Truman Medical Center [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Research/Downtown Health Care Center [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Children's Mercy Hospital [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Church Women United [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Vice President

Eleventh Episcopal District A.M.E. Zion Church [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Missionary

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Steward

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

St. Joseph Hospital [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Trustee

University of Missouri - Kansas City Intercollegiate Athletic Task Force [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Council of Negro Women [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Clymer Neighborhood Center [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

United Minority Media Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Black Contemporary Players [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Charter Member

Soroptimist, International [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Missouri Municipal League [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member; President

National League of Cities [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chair, Human Resources Committee; Board Member

Downtown, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

University of Kansas Women's Resource Center Advisory Board [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Africare [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Kansas City Chapter Board Member

Salvation Army [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Kansas City Association of Trusts and Foundations [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

United Way [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Liberty Memorial Association, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Oak Park Neighborhood Association [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

HUD Community Housing Resource Board [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Black Firefighters Advisory Committee [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Junior League Community Advisors [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

March of Dimes [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Metropolitan Energy Center Advisory Council [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Park College Advisory Board [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Jan Clayton Center [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Citizens Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Missouri Federation of Republican Governors [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

2nd Ward Republican Club [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Women's Political Caucus, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

New Breed Council, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

President

National Federation of Republican Women [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

National Board member

National Black Republican Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

National Chairman

Fifth Congressional District Republican Club [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Jackson County Republican Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Secretary

National Black Elected Officials [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Regional Director

Republican National Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Committee Member

Missouri Commission on Human Rights [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Commissioner

Commission on Presidential Scholars [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

International Women's Year Missouri State Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

Missouri Commission on Public Safety [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

Missouri State Advisory Committee, United States Commission on Civil Rights

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

Mid-America Regional Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Panelist

Mayor's Council on Youth Development [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Chair

Coro Foundation, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Mayor's Corps of Progress [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

Sister Cities Commission [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Appointed Member

Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust [MEMBER**Of**]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

National Association of Regional Councils [MEMBER**Of**]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member