

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown

PERSON

Brown, Manson Kevin, 1956-

Alternative Names: Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown;

Life Dates: July 23, 1956-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Residence: Burke, VA

Occupations: Admiral

Biographical Note

Coast Guard Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown was born on July 23, 1956 in Washington, D.C. to Catherine Harris and Manson Brown, Jr. In 1974, he entered the United States Coast Guard and enrolled in the United States Coast Guard Academy. In 1978, he graduated with his B.S. degree in civil engineering, becoming the twenty-third African American to graduate in the history of the Academy. In 1985, Brown received his M.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Then, in 2000, he graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with his M.S. degree in national resources strategy. Brown is a registered professional civil engineer.

Brown's first assignment was as an Assistant Engineering Officer aboard the icebreaker Glacier. During his service, Brown completed numerous assignments, including as Deputy Group Commander at Group Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, Assistant Chief of the Civil Engineering Division at Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, and an Engineering Assignment Officer in the Officer Personnel Division at the Coast Guard Headquarters. In 1999, he was appointed as military assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation where he served until 2001. After 9/11, Brown was temporarily assigned as Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. In 2003, he served as Chief of Officer Personnel Management at the Coast Guard Personnel Command before holding the position of Senior Advisor for Transportation to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, Iraq in 2004. In 2010, Brown became the first African American to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral, serving as Commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area. In 2012, he was appointed Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, where he oversaw a staff of 13,000 and a budget of over \$4 billion. Brown retired from the Coast Guard in 2014, but by 2015, he was appointed by President Barack Obama as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for

Environmental Observation and Prediction and as Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and chair of NOAA's Observing Systems Council.

Brown has served as national president of the National Naval Officers Association, chair of the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, and on the advisory board for the National Academy of Sciences' Gulf Research Program. Brown serves as a member of several organizations including the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the Naval Order of the United States, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.

In 1994, Brown was the first recipient of the Coast Guard Witherspoon Award for Inspirational Leadership. In 2012, the National Society for Black Engineers awarded him its Golden Torch Award. In 2014, Brown received the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the NAACP Meritorious Service Award and was named an honorary Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer. Brown holds an honorary doctorate from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Brown and his wife, Herminia Banez Brown, reside in Washington, D.C. They have three sons, Manson, Robert, and William.

Manson Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 12, 2022.

Related Entries

Truesdell Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Gabriel's Catholic School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Johns College High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

United States Coast Guard Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

National Defense University -- Industrial College of the Armed Forces [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

United States Coast Guard [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19746 to 20146]

Various

U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 201411 to 20171]

Assistant Secretary of Commerce

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1978 to ?]

Member

National Naval Officers Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1982 to ?]

Various

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity [MEMBEROF]
[from 1983 to ?]

Member

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Alumni Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1985 to ?]

Member

Naval Order of the United States [MEMBEROF]
[from 2007 to ?]

Member

Veterans of Foreign Wars [MEMBEROF]
[from 2008 to ?]

Member

Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 2010 to ?]

Member

Adventure Cycling Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 2017 to ?]

Member

United States Navy League [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

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