

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maycie Herrington

PERSON

Herrington, Maycie, 1918-2016

**Alternative Names:** Maycie Herrington;

**Life Dates:** November 7, 1918-May 24, 2016

**Place of Birth:** Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Long Beach, CA

**Occupations:** Nonprofit Executive;

## Biographical Note

Civic leader Maycie Herrington was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 7, 1918, to Dicie and Thomas Copeland. She attended St. Augustine College for grade school and later Lucille Hunter School. Herrington graduated from Washington High School in 1936. She returned to St. Augustine's College, worked for her tuition and graduated with a B.S. in 1940. In 1943, during World War II, Herrington married former St. Augustine's College classmate, Aaron Herrington, who was soon sent by the army to Tuskegee, Alabama, for flight training.

Herrington quit her job as a bookkeeper with Mechanics and Farmers Bank and joined her husband in Tuskegee where she found employment with the Red Cross. In Tuskegee, Herrington became a familiar face to many of the Tuskegee Airmen. After the war, Herrington and her husband moved to Long Beach, California, where she found employment as a social worker with the Bureau of Public Assistance. There, she was assigned to work with the Long Beach Area Welfare Planning Council United Way, and to coordinate summer camps and Christmas activities. Herrington served in that capacity for more than thirty years. The emergency food assistance program in Compton that Herrington started is still in existence today.

Active in community affairs, Herrington was a member of the Long Beach Altrusa Club, the Long Beach County Grand Jurors' Association, and the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach. As a historical conservator, she was active in keeping the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen alive. One of Herrington's contributions was a set of Tuskegee Airmen trading cards. Each card includes a photo and biography of a Tuskegee Airman. These cards educate the public and help finance the Airmen's youth outreach programs. Herrington was the recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award, the Women Helping Women Award, the Rick Racker Woman of the Year Award, and the

National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award.

Herrington passed away on May 24, 2016.

## Related Entries

**St. Augustine's University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Hunter GT/AIG Magnet Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Washington High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**St. Augustine's University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Mechanics and Farmers Bank** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1940 to 1943]

**Bookkeeper**

**American Red Cross** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1979 to 1981]

**Secretary to the Director**

**U.S. Army** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1944 to 1948]

**Physician's Secretary**

**Long Beach Bureau of Public Assistance/Long Beach Department of Public Social Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1994 to 1995]

**Social Worker**

**Long Beach Department of Public Social Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1972 to 1981]

**Resource Coordinator**

**Los Angeles County Grand Jury** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1983]

**Grand Juror**

**Los Angeles Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1974 to ?]

