

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Kathleen Crosby

PERSON

Crosby, Kathleen, 1925-2005

**Alternative Names:** Kathleen Crosby;

**Life Dates:** March 9, 1925-November 13, 2012

**Place of Birth:** Winnsboro, South Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Charlotte, North Carolina

**Occupations:** Elementary School Teacher; School Superintendent

## Biographical Note

Educator Kathleen "Kat" Crosby was born on March 9, 1925, in Winnsboro, South Carolina, to Beatrice Tucker and W.A. Ross. She graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, with a B.A. in 1946 and later earned her M.A. from Bank Street College in New York City in 1970.

Crosby began teaching in 1946 in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Aside from twenty years of experience as a classroom teacher, she served as an in-service specialist for early childhood education from 1967 to 1970. Crosby worked at length with Head Start programs and has offered her services as an education consultant at the university level. From 1970 to 1976, Crosby was principal of Billingsville Elementary School. There, she was hailed for her successful leadership in dealing with school desegregation and busing issues. A 1976 CBS television documentary highlighted her outstanding leadership of Billingsville Elementary School. In 1976, Crosby became an area assistant superintendent to the district, which comprised twenty-five schools. She retired as superintendent in 1986 after a successful forty-year career.

In 1970, Crosby was appointed to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Charter Commission. An outspoken voice on desegregation, Crosby was named WBT Radio's Woman of the Year 1976. In 1977, she was appointed to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Crosby has served as vice president of the United Community Service Board and on the Community Relations Committee, the University of North Carolina's Board of Trustees, the Drug Education Board, WBT Radio's Black Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees for Johnson C. Smith University. In 1974, she was awarded the B'nai B'rith Women's Human Relations Award, and in 1975 she was inducted into the NAACP's Hall of Fame.

Her husband of fifty-one years, Joseph Crosby, died in June 2001. They have two children, Joseph Crosby, Jr. and Kathy Wells.

Kathleen Crosby passed away on November 13, 2012.

## Related Entries

**Johnson C. Smith University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Fairfield County Training School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Voorhees College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bank Street College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1996 to 1998]

**Superintendent**

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1946 to ?]

**Teacher**

**Billingsville Elementary School** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to 2009]

**Principal**

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1976 to ?]

**Assistant Superintendent**