

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Wilson Frost

PERSON

Frost, Wilson, 1925-2018

Alternative Names: The Honorable Wilson Frost;

Life Dates: December 27, 1925-May 5, 2018

Place of Birth: Cairo, Illinois, USA

Occupations: City Council Member

Biographical Note

Longtime Chicago politician Wilson Frost was born in Cairo, Illinois, on December 27, 1925, and earned his bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1950. He attended Chicago-Kent College of Law, earning his J.D. in 1958. He later studied at DePaul University's Lawyer's Institute.

After graduating from Fisk, Frost was hired by the Postal Transportation Service as a clerk, where he remained until 1952. That year, he left to work at Provident Hospital as a statistician. After earning his law degree, Frost joined the firm of Frost, Sherard, Howse & Coleman, where he continued on as a partner until 1973. That year, he left to form Meyer & Frost, which later became Frost & Greenblatt. He remained there until his retirement in 1998.

Frost became active in the Chicago political machine in 1967, winning election as alderman of the 21st Ward. In 1971, he was elected alderman of the 34th Ward, and in 1976 he was serving as the president pro tem of the City Council. With the death of longtime mayor Richard J. Daley in 1976, Frost pointed out that under existing law he was to become the new mayor. The other aldermen disagreed, and after the course of several meetings, Frost was kept out of the mayor's seat and instead was named the chairman of the Finance Committee of the City Council. Following the incident, Frost continued to serve the city, retiring in 1998 with the title of commissioner of the Cook County Board of Tax Appeals.

During his many years of public service, Frost was honored by many organizations, including the Original Forty Club, which awarded him the Man of the Year Award in 1974, and the Illinois House of Representatives, which issued a resolution praising his work upon his retirement. Frost also actively served various organizations, including the John Marshall School of Law and Mercy Hospital Medical Center. He also served as vice president of the City Club of Chicago. Frost and his wife, Gloria, had four

children.

Frost passed away on May 5, 2018 at the age of 92.

Related Entries

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

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Illinois Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Wendell Phillips Academy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kennedy–King College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

State of Illinois [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Juvenile Parole Agent

Postal Transportation Service [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1950 to 1952]

Clerk

Provident Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1952 to ?]

Junior Accountant

Frost, Sherard, Howse & Coleman [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1958 to 1973]

Partner

City of Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1967 to 1971]

21st Ward Alderman

City of Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1971 to 1987]

34th Ward Alderman

Meyer & Frost [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1998]

Co-Founder

Cook County Board of Tax Appeals [EMPLOYEE**OF**]
[from 1984 to 1998]

Commissioner