

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael Jack

PERSON

Jack, Michael, 1951-

Alternative Names: Michael Jack;

Life Dates: June 6, 1951-

Place of Birth: Berlin, Germany

Residence: San Diego, CA

Occupations: Television Station General Manager

Biographical Note

Television manager Michael Jack was born on June 6, 1951 in Berlin, Germany to Johanna Magrete Kresse and Huston Jack, Jr., a military veteran. He moved to Massachusetts at age two, however, he relocated frequently with his father to several military bases in the United States and Germany. Jack attended John F. Kennedy High School in Willingboro, New Jersey and Heidelberg High School in Heidelberg, Germany. After graduation, Jack enrolled in Pennsylvania's Haverford College where he earned his B.A. degree in political science.

After graduating from college, Jack worked for WABC-TV in New York, a subsidiary of Capital Cities ABC-TV, where he would serve for nineteen years. Jack moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1980, serving as an account executive for ABC sales spots in the city until 1981, when he became a national sales manager at KGO-TV in San Francisco, California. He was promoted to local sales manager at KGO and remained at the station until 1986.

In 1986, Jack moved to Los Angeles becoming Capital Cities' National Sales Office Sales Manager, where he would work for a decade. In 1996, Jack joined NBC, working for Los Angeles' KNBC as Vice President of Sales. In his role, Jack oversaw the entire department on both local and national levels. Three years later, Jack became president and general manager of Columbus, Ohio's NBC affiliate, WCMH-TV station, succeeding executive Bill Katsafanas in managing the entire station. During Jack's tenure, WCMH led the market in early morning news, late news and prime time markets.

An industry veteran, Jack became president and general manager of WRC-TV in Washington, D.C., jumping from the thirty-fourth largest television market in the nation

to the eighth-largest. The same year, Jack was named NBC's Vice President of Diversity by General Electric Company's chairman and chief executive officer, Bob Wright. He became the President and General Manager of NBC New York in 2010. Jack serves on a variety of boards, including the Greater Washington Urban League, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Michael Jack resides in New York with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Truce.

Michael Jack was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 28, 2007.

Related Entries

Haverford College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Heidelberg American High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bryn Mawr College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

John F. Kennedy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bloomington [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Assistant Buyer

Celanese Fiber Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Salesman

KGO-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

National Sales Manager and Local Sales Manager

NBC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President of Diversity

WABC TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1996]

Sales and Management

ABC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1981]

Account Executive

WNBC TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to 1999]

Sales Manager

WCMH TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2002]

President and General Manager

WRC-TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2002 to ?]

President and General Manager

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington [MEMBEROf]
[from 1993 to 1995]

Volunteer

Greater Washington Urban League [MEMBEROf]
[from 1992 to 1995]

Member

DC Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROf]
[from 1994 to 1998]

Member

100 Black Men of America [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Advertising Week DC [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]