

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Emma E. Houston

PERSON

Houston, Emma E., 1956-

Alternative Names: Emma E. Houston;

Life Dates: February 18, 1956-

Place of Birth: Navasota, Texas, USA

Residence: Salt Lake City, UT

Work: Salt Lake City, UT

Occupations: Nonprofit Administrator

Biographical Note

Emma Elizabeth Roberson Houston was born on February 18, 1956 in Navasota, Texas to Ida and Norman Roberson. Houston attended Dallas' Albert Sidney Johnston Elementary School and Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School before moving with her family to Houston, Texas and graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School. Later, she earned her B.S. degree in business management from the University of Phoenix at Utah.

Houston has performed civic work in Salt Lake City, Utah for almost twenty years. In 1989, she was hired by the Girl Scouts of Utah and served as the director of membership until 1993. She eventually became the organization's sales specialist, instilling entrepreneurial values in high school age girls through training and leadership workshops. Houston then served as the director of girl services and provided supervision, support, training and direction to staff members and volunteers. She went on to work for Rowland Hall St. Mark's School as the diversity coordinator and at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, Houston served her hometown by helping to keep the Olympic Village secure.

Houston was hired by Salt Lake County Aging Services in 2002 as center supervisor and later became the organization's assistant program manager and the first in the State of Utah to facilitate a Senior Center receiving National Accreditation. Through her work, Houston helped to foster independence for the elderly by providing community-based services, in-home services and volunteer opportunities.

Houston, a breast cancer survivor, serves as a member of several institutions including

the League of Black Women, the Salt Lake County Housing Authority, the Utah Gerontological Society and the Utah Commission on Women and Families. Houston has also served as the chair of the Governor's Office of Black Affairs and corresponding secretary for the NAACP.

Houston was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 16, 2008.

Related Entries

Stephen F. Austin High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Albert Sidney Johnston Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Oliver Wendell Holmes Humanities and Communications Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Franklin D. Roosevelt High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Houston [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Calvary Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Youth Director

Girl Scouts of Utah [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to 2002]

Staff Member

Salt Lake County Aging Services [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to ?]

Assistant Program Manager

Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to ?]

Diversity Coordinator

NAACP [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

