

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maureen Bunyan

PERSON

Bunyan, Maureen

Alternative Names: Maureen Bunyan;

Life Dates: February 27, 1945-

Place of Birth: Aruba

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: Television News Anchor

Biographical Note

Television news anchor Maureen Bunyan was born in 1945 on the island of Aruba to Arthur and Wilhelmina Bunyan. Her parents had moved from Guyana to Aruba in the 1930s, looking for better work opportunities. The family immigrated to the United States when Bunyan was just eleven years old, after her father accepted a job with a company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Arthur Bunyan always stressed the importance of education to his children and at one point all members of the family were enrolled in local schools, each studying for an undergraduate degree. Bunyan herself received her B.A. degree in English and education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Still in college, she worked as a free-lance writer for the Milwaukee Journal.

Bunyan went on to attend the Columbia University School of Journalism in 1970. After school, she worked in broadcasting with Boston's WGBH-TV and later New York's WCBS-TV. In 1973, Bunyan became the lead news anchor and reporter at WTOP-TV (now WUSA-TV), the CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. After working on the Eyewitness News Team, she became a co-anchor with Gordon Peterson and remained in this position until she resigned in 1995. Bunyan returned to school to receive her M.A. degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1980. As a lead news anchor, Bunyan covered major local, national, and international stories, traveling to Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. Bunyan established a reputation as a clear-thinking, clear-spoken, fair-minded and dependable newswoman. From 1997-1999, Bunyan served as the chief correspondent for PBS' Religions and Ethics Newsweekly.

In 1999, Bunyan joined WJLA-TV ABC 7 News in Washington D.C. as a primary anchor. Five years later, she was reunited with co-anchor Gordon Peterson for the 6:00pm EST news. During her career, Bunyan also served as a frequent substitute host

for Talk of the Nation on National Public Radio and The Derek McGinty Show on WAMU Radio. Bunyan was one of the founding members of the National Association of Black Journalists in 1975, as well as the International Women's Media Foundation in 1990. She has won a number of awards including Journalist of the Year in 1992, the Immigrant Achievement Award from the American Immigration Law Foundation in 2002, as well as receiving a number of local Emmys for her captivating work.

Maureen Bunyan was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 29, 2012.

Related Entries

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Harvard Graduate School of Education [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Milwaukee Journal [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1970]

Freelance Reporter

WGBH TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to 1972]

WCBS TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1973]

WUSA TV (WTOP TV) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1995]

News Anchor

WJLA TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 2012]

News Anchor

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 1999]

Chief Correspondent

International Women's Media Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Society of Professional Journalists [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Broadcast Pioneers Club of Washington [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]

[from 1975 to ?]

National Association of Hispanic Journalists [MEMBEROf]

[from 1990 to ?]