

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marcus McCraven

PERSON

McCraven, Marcus, 1923-

Alternative Names: Marcus McCraven;

Life Dates: December 27, 1923-May 5, 2021

Place of Birth: Des Moines, Iowa, USA

Residence: Hamden, CT

Occupations: Electrical Engineer

Biographical Note

Electrical engineer Marcus R. McCraven was born on December 27, 1923 in Des Moines, Iowa to parents Marcus and Buena McCraven. After graduating from high school, McCraven enrolled at Howard University but was drafted into the U.S. Army during his first year of college. He was listed as an expert rifleman but went on to serve as a supply clerk with an engineering regiment in Papua, New Guinea and in the Philippines. Returning to the United States, McCraven continued his studies at Howard University and graduated with his B.S. degree in electrical engineering.

Upon graduation, McCraven was hired at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. After six months, he was promoted to electrical engineer and became the project leader of the Nuclear Systems Branch. McCraven soon moved to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California where he worked on the hydrogen bomb. His area of expertise on the project was diagnostics and he was instrumental the early development of nuclear weapons, including nuclear tests on Bikini Island and in Nevada. McCraven then joined the research staff at the California Lawrence Radiation Laboratory; and, in the 1960s, he left California and moved to Connecticut where he began to work for Phelps Dodge. In 1970, he joined United Illuminating Co. as the director of environmental engineering and was later promoted to vice president.

McCraven has also served as trustee at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. In 2011, McCraven received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

McCraven lived in Hamden, Connecticut with his wife, Marguerite McCraven, a former social worker in the Hamden Public Schools. They have three children: Paul McCraven, the vice president of community development at New Alliance Bank; Stephen

McCraven, a musician living in Paris, Carol McCraven.

Marcus McCraven was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 8, 2013.

McCraven passed away on May 5, 2021.

Related Entries

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.S.

University of Maryland [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

University of California, Berkeley [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bowman High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Naval Research Laboratory [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to 1989]

Project Leader

University of California, Livermore [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1954 to 1964]

Head of Systems Development

Phelps Dodge Electronics [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to 1969]

Chief Engineer

United Illuminating Co. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1989]

Vice President, Environmental Engineering

U.S. EPA [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Advisory Board/Executive Committee Member

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Associate

Yale University [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Fellow

Yale University Peabody Museum Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board President

First Constitution Bank [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Quinnipiac University [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Trustees

Edison Electric Institute [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Chariman, Advisory Committee

Connective Agricultural Station [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Control

Tri-State International Red Cross [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Chairman

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boule) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Marcus and Marguerite McCraven Endowed Scholarship Fund [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

United States Military Academy [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Selection Panel