

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Thomas

PERSON

Thomas, Charles, 1951-

Alternative Names: Charles Thomas;

Life Dates: May 3, 1951-

Place of Birth: St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Charles Thomas was born on May 3, 1951 in Webster Groves, Missouri to Clarence and Oneida Thomas. He grew up in the St. Louis area and graduated with his B.A. degree from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism in 1973.

Upon graduation, Thomas was hired as a broadcast journalist, and worked as a reporter in Kansas City, Missouri before being hired at KGO-TV in San Francisco, California in 1978. In 1982, he was hired as a reporter for WCAU-TV in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Then, in 1986, Thomas joined WTAF-TV as a general assignment reporter until 1988, when he joined the ABC News bureau in St. Louis, Missouri as a Midwest correspondent. Thomas was then hired as a general assignment reporter by ABC 7 News in Chicago in 1991.

Thomas has worked for ABC 7 on the O.J. Simpson trials, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Rodney King trials, and the Chicago White Sox 2005 World Series Championship. He has reported from Europe and Asia for ABC 7, and, in 2006, accompanied then U.S. Senator Barack Obama to Africa. In all, Thomas has traveled to every state in the United States and to five continents during his journalism career. In 2009, he was promoted to the position of political reporter at ABC 7.

Thomas has won two Emmy Awards for reporting: one in 1983, and another in 1992. He has been a member of Alpha Phi Alpha since 1969.

Thomas and his wife Maria live in downtown Chicago. They are the parents of two adult sons and one adult daughter.

Charles Thomas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 24, 2014.

Related Entries

Frederick Douglass High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

K-6

Steger Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

7-9

Webster Groves High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

High School Diploma

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

Bachelor

KCMO TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1978]

Reporter

KGO TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1982]

Reporter

WCAU TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1986]

Reporter

WTKR TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1988]

Weekend Anchor

ABC News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1991]

National Correspondent

WLS TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1991 to ?]

Political Reporter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from 1969 to ?]

