

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.

PERSON

Dortch, Thomas W.

**Alternative Names:** Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.; Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.

**Life Dates:** April 12, 1950-

**Place of Birth:** Toccoa, Georgia, USA

**Residence:** Atlanta, GA

**Work:** Atlanta, GA

**Occupations:** Civic Leader; ;

## Biographical Note

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. was born April 12, 1950 in Toccoa, Georgia to Lizzie Dortch and Thomas W. Dortch, Sr. Dortch, Jr. went on to become an influential leader and mentor as well as a successful businessman.

After graduating from Whitman Street High School in 1968, Dortch attended Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia and graduated with a B.A. in sociology in 1972. That year, he began his formal career by seeking to aid disenfranchised people through proposing projects for the State of Georgia. In 1974, he became the associate director of the Georgia Democratic Party. In 1978, Dortch began working as an administrative aide for U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and eventually became State Director, the first African American to serve in this position. Dortch worked tirelessly to represent the interests of small businesses, minorities, and other marginalized individuals.

Dortch became civically active during these years, and in 1986 joined 100 Black Men of America, a mentoring program intended to improve the quality of life and opportunities for education and employment for African Americans. He served as chairman of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and became the chairman of 100 Black Men of America's national board of directors. That same year, he earned his M.A. in Criminal Justice Administration from Clark Atlanta University and married Carole Dortch. He also founded the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

In 1994, after more than 16 years of government service, Dortch left his position to pursue his own business interests. He became CEO of the consulting firm TWD, Inc.

and Atlanta Transportation Systems, Inc., a Fulton County paratransit company. He still holds both positions.

Thomas Dortch has won numerous awards highlighting his achievements, including a Presidential Citation for volunteerism, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, and the Concerned Black Clergy's Salute to Black Fathers Leadership Award. Dortch has four children.

## Related Entries

**Whitman Street High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**100 Black Men of America** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1969]

**Chairman**

**100 Black Men of Atlanta** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1990 to 1994]

**Chairman**

**TWD, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

**Atlanta Transportation Systems, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

**Georgia Democratic Party** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1974 to ?]

**Associate Director**

**United States Senate** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1978 to ?]

**Senatorial Aide**