

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Charles H. Epps, Jr.

PERSON

Epps, Charles H. (Charles Harry), 1930-

Alternative Names: Dr. Charles H. Epps, Jr.; Charles H. Epps, Jr., M.D.

Life Dates: July 24, 1930-

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Orthopedic Surgeon

Biographical Note

Medical pioneer and educator Dr. Charles Harry Epps, Jr., was born on July 24, 1930, in Baltimore, Maryland. Epps attended Baltimore's Frederick Douglass High School; during his senior year, he was class president and valedictorian. While still in high school, Epps was also selected to be a delegate of the Maryland State Boys Senate, where he introduced legislation calling for the elimination of segregation of the state's public transportation, which the State Boys Senate passed.

Epps graduated from high school in 1947 and enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Epps graduated magna cum laude with his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1947 from Howard, and received his M.D. degree with honors in 1955. After medical school, Epps completed his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at Freedmen's (now Howard University) Hospital, in Washington, D.C. Following the completion of his residency, Epps served as a captain in the United States Army Medical Corps.

After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1962, Epps returned to Howard University to become a member of the College of Medicine faculty, and began a successful private practice.

At the age of thirty-three, Epps was appointed chief of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at Howard. During his tenure as chief and professor, Epps trained more African American men and women in orthopedic surgery than anyone in the world. Epps also served Howard in various other capacities, including dean of the College of Medicine; vice president for health affairs; acting CEO of Howard Hospital; and special assistant to the president for health affairs.

Epps retired from Howard University in 2001. Throughout the course of his career, Epps contributed more than seventy publications and thirty book chapters, in addition to giving numerous lectures and scientific presentations. Epps also served in a variety of professional organizations, including the American Orthopedic Association, where he was its first African American member, and later its president. Epps and his wife, renowned doctor Roselyn Payne Epps, raised four children.

Related Entries

DaCorsi School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Frederick Douglass High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

diploma

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University College of Medicine [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.D.

Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Freedmen's Hospital, Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1955 to 1956]

Intern

Freedmen's Hospital, Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1956 to 1957]

Resident

United States Army Reserve [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1956 to 1961]

Captain, medical corps

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1961 to 1962]

Captain, medical corps, active duty

Howard University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1961 to 1964]

Instructor, Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Howard University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1968]

Asst. Professor and Chief of Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Howard University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1972]

Associate Professor and Chief, Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Howard University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1988]

Professor and Chief, Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Howard University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1994]

Dean

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 1996]

Vice President of Health Affairs

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to ?]

Dean Emeritus