

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ray Robinson

PERSON

Robinson, Ray, 1947-

Alternative Names: Ray Robinson;

Life Dates: November 30, 1947-

Place of Birth: McKinney, Texas, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Telecommunications Executive

Biographical Note

Business executive, community developer, and golf enthusiast, Ray M. Robinson was born on November 30, 1947, in McKinney, Texas. Robinson grew up in Dallas, and while still in high school worked as a communication technician, beginning a thirty-five-year career with AT&T.

In 1970, Robinson earned his B.A. degree in finance from the University of Denver, and the following year he received his M.B.A., degree also from that same institution. Simultaneously, Robinson began his climb up the corporate ladder at AT&T, relocating thirteen times as he took new assignments in marketing, sales, and regulatory affairs. Robinson finally settled in Atlanta, where he became president of the company's southern region.

Upon his retirement from AT&T in 2003, Robinson, an avid golfer, assumed the presidency of Atlanta's East Lake Golf Club and became vice chairman of the East Lake Community Foundation. Robinson helped revive Atlanta's historic golf course and revitalize the inner-city neighborhood surrounding it through redevelopment. This redevelopment included East Lake Family YMCA and Eastlake Junior Golf Academy. Under Robinson's leadership, the golf club signed a multiyear partnership with the Professional Golf Association, making the East Lake Course the primary host venue for the PGA Championship Tour.

Robinson served on the board of directors for several businesses and organizations, including Citizens Trust Bank, the Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlanta Tribune Editorial Advisory Board. Additionally, Robinson belonged to several civic groups, including the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the NAACP. Robinson and his wife, Arlane, were married in 1969; they raised two children.

Related Entries

Hamilton Park Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Hamilton Park High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

University of Denver [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts

University of Denver [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Master of Business Administration

Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

AT&T [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 2003]

President

Cousins Foundation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2003 to ?]

President