

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Langford

PERSON

Langford, Larry, 1948-

Alternative Names: Larry Langford;

Life Dates: March 17, 1948-October 28, 2009

Place of Birth: Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Occupations: County Commissioner; Mayor

Biographical Note

Political leader, former mayor of Fairfield, Alabama, and mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, Larry Paul Langford was born in Birmingham, Alabama on March 17, 1948, to Lillian and John Langford. Langford graduated from Parker High School and received his B.A. degree in social and behavioral science from the University of Alabama in 1972. Langford was also the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Miles College and completed studies at Harvard University in public policy.

After a short stint in the United States Air Force, Langford began his career as a television reporter for WBRC-6 and later worked in public relations for a Birmingham beer distributor before beginning his career in politics. In 1979, Langford joined the Birmingham City Council after an unsuccessful run for mayor of Birmingham. In 1982, Langford moved to Fairfield, Alabama, where he was elected mayor. He held the office for fourteen years, and in 1997, played a major role in the effort to build Vision Land Theme Park (which is now known as Alabama Adventure) to boost Alabama tourism.

After his tenure as mayor, Langford was elected in 2002 to the Jefferson County Commission, where he served as Commission President and Commissioner of Finance and General Services. While working with the Commission, Langford spearheaded nearly seventy public initiatives, including a sales tax to support school construction and a four day work week for county employees. Langford was re-elected as commissioner in 2006, after which he led efforts to bring an NBA team to the Birmingham area. In 2007, Langford was elected the thirtieth mayor of Birmingham, Alabama. After his election, Langford remained active in the Scared Heart of Jesus, teaching bible study; he and his wife, Melva, had a son and two grandsons.

Related Entries

A.H. Parker High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ullman High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Alabama at Birmingham [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lawson State Community College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

WBRC-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Reporter

U.S. Air Force [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1965 to 1970]

Private

Southern Research [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to 1972]

Lab Assistant

Birmingham City Council [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1979]

Councilman

City of Fairfield, Alabama [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 2002]

Mayor

Jefferson County Commission [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to 2007]

Commissioner

City of Birmingham, Alabama [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2007 to 2009]

Mayor

West Jefferson Amusement Authority [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

Jefferson Metropolitan Health Care Authority [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder