

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Edgar Duncan

PERSON

Duncan, Edgar, 1932-

Alternative Names: Edgar Duncan; Rear Admiral (Ret.) Edgar N. Duncan

Life Dates: February 1, 1932-December 17, 2011

Place of Birth: Monessen, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Pittsburgh, PA

Occupations: Pharmacist; Presidential Appointee

Biographical Note

Accomplished pharmacist Dr. Edgar Newton Duncan was born on February 1, 1932 in Monessen, Pennsylvania to Willie and William Duncan. Duncan's father worked as a tailor in the first tailor shop in Monessen. Duncan's mother, graduated from the Tuskegee Institute, became a teacher, married and passed on her love of learning to her six children. Excelling in school, Duncan knew that he wanted to go to college. After graduating from high school as class valedictorian, Duncan went on to Duquesne University.

In 1954, Duncan would be the only black student in his class to graduate from Duquesne University with a B.S. degree in pharmacy. He graduated magna cum laude. At Duquesne University, Duncan would meet Lauraine Thorne, and the two would get married in 1954. In 1956, Duncan became the first black student to graduate with his M.S. degree in hygiene from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH). Duncan began working in the U.S. Public Health Service's Commissioned Officers Corps, and in 1972, he became the first pharmacist to be promoted to surgeon general. After returning as Associate Dean of GSPH, he began to work with Pitt's Partners in Education Consortium and other programs to encourage black and other minority youth to pursue health professions. These programs have made a difference for many young minority students.

In 1990, Duncan earned his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. He and his wife raised three sons and sent them all to college.

Duncan passed away on December 17, 2011.

Duncan was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 13, 2008.

Related Entries

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Duquesne University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School Of Public Health [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

Western Pennsylvania Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Pharmacist

U.S. Public Health Service Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1957 to ?]

Chief Pharmacist

Indian Health Service [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to ?]

Assistant Surgeon General [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1977]

Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield of New York [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1980]

President of Medicare

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1982]

Director

University of Pittsburgh Graduate School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 2005]

Associate Dean

Center for Minority Health [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2005 to ?]

Interim Director of Minority Affairs

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

