

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Edwin Dorn

PERSON

Dorn, Edwin

Alternative Names: Edwin Dorn;

Life Dates: March 26, 1945-

Place of Birth: Crockett, Texas, USA

Residence: Austin, Texas

Work: Austin, Texas

Occupations: Federal Government Appointee

Biographical Note

Presidential appointee and public policy professor Edwin Dorn was born on March 26, 1945 in Crockett, Texas to parents Edgar and Mary Dorn. Dorn attended Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas, and in 1967, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas at Austin. He studied in England on a Fulbright Fellowship, received his M.A. degree from Indiana University, and completed his Ph.D. degree in political science at Yale University in 1978. He also spent two years on active duty as a captain in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

From 1977 to 1981, Dorn worked in Washington, D.C. as a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and in the U.S. Department of Education. He then served as a senior researcher at the Joint Center for Political Studies, and later as a senior staff member at the Brookings Institution.

In 1993, President William J. Clinton nominated, and the U.S. Senate confirmed Dorn for the senior Department of Defense position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel. A year later, he was nominated and confirmed as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. From 1997 to 2005, Dorn served as dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, where he oversaw the creation of several new programs and set a record for fund-raising. He continues to teach at the University of Texas as a professor of public policy.

Dorn's major publications include *Rules and Racial Equality* (Yale University Press) and *Who Defends America* (Joint Center Press). He also is the author of dozens of articles, reports, and opinion pieces. He was an advisor to two public television series:

Congress: We The People, and Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, and a commentator on National Public Radio's "Tell Me More," hosted by Michel Martin.

Dorn serves as a trustee of the Kettering Foundation, the Institute for Defense Analyses, and the Seton Family of Hospitals. In 1998, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Edwin Dorn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 2, 2013.

Related Entries

Yale University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ph.D. with Distinction

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.A.

University of Texas at Arlington [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1981]

Captain, V Corp Headquarters

Center for West African Studies [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to 1978]

Fulbright Scholar

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1974 to ?]

Special Assistant

Delete [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1980]

Executive Assistant

United States Department of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1981]

Director of Executive Operations

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1933 to ?]

Deputy Director for Research

Brookings Institution [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1981 to ?]

Senior Staff Member

Department of Defense [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 1994]

Assistant Secretary of Defense

Department of Defense [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 1997]

Under Secretary of Defense

University of Texas, Austin [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2004]

Dean, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

University of Texas, Austin [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to ?]

Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

Kettering Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chair of the Board

Institute for Defense Analyses [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chair, Visiting Committee

Seton Family of Hospitals [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chair

Kennedy School Innovations in Government Awards [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member, Selection Committee

United Way of Central Texas [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

Sustained Dialogue about Political and Social Change in the Arab World [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Dartmouth Conference on U.S.-Russia Relations [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Public Radio (NPR) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Commentator, "Tell Me More"

Children's Defense Fund [MEMBER OF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Committee Member