

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Radm. Lillian Fishburne

PERSON

Fishburne, Lillian, 1949-

**Alternative Names:** Radm. Lillian Fishburne;

**Life Dates:** March 25, 1949-

**Place of Birth:** Patuxent River, Maryland, USA

**Residence:** Rockville, MD

**Occupations:** Rear Admiral

## Biographical Note

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Fishburne was born on March 25, 1949 in Patuxent River, Maryland. After graduating from Lincoln University (Pennsylvania) with her B.A. degree in 1971, Fishburne enrolled in the U.S. Navy Women's Officers School in Newport, Rhode Island and was commissioned as an Ensign in 1973. Fishburne went on to receive her M.A. degree in management from Webster College in 1980 and her M.S. degree in telecommunications systems management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1982. In addition, she is a 1993 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, in Washington, D.C.

Fishburne was first assigned as the personnel and legal officer at the the Naval Air Test Facility in Lakehurst, New Jersey. In 1974, she reported to the Recruiting District in Miami, Florida as a Navy officer programs recruiter where she worked until 1977. She then served as the officer-in-charge at the Naval Telecommunications Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Fishburne reported to the Command, Control, and Communications Directorate in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations where she served as the assistant head of the Joint Allied Command and Control Matters Branch. In 1984, she became an executive officer at the Naval Communication Station in Yokosuka, Japan before being named as the special projects officer for the Chief of Naval Operations in the Command, Control, and Communications Directorate.

In 1992, Fishburne was appointed as the commanding officer of the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Key West, Florida; and, in 1993, she was assigned as the chief of the Command and Control Systems Support Division of the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Systems Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Fishburne assumed command of the Naval Computer

and Telecommunications Area Eastern Pacific Station in Wahiawa, Hawaii in 1995, and then reported to the Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control Directorate, Chief of Naval Operations where she served as the director of the Information Transfer Division. On February 1, 1998, Fishburne was promoted to U.S. Navy Rear Admiral making her the first African American female to hold the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Fishburne's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legion of Merit Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Rear Admiral Lillian E. Fishburne was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 28, 2013.

## Related Entries

**William Harry Blount Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Rock Terrace Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Shih Lin** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Julius West Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Richard Montgomery High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Dickinson College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Lincoln University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Women Officers School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Webster College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**Naval Postgraduate School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S.**

**Industrial College of the Armed Forces** [STUDENTOf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Macy's** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 196809 to 196812]

**Salesperson**

**Chase Manhattan Bank** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 197110 to 197209]

**Teller**

**Naval Telecommunications Center** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 197711 to 198008]

**Officer in Charge**

**Naval Air Test Facility** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1974 to 1977]

**Personnel and Legal Officer**

**United States Navy** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1984]

**Assistant Head of the Joint Allied Command and Control Matters Branch**

**Naval Communication Station** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1987]

**Executive Officer**

**C4 Directorate** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1987 to 1990]

**Special Projects Officer**

**Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1990 to 1994]

**Commanding Officer**

**Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1994 to 1995]

**Chief of the Command and Control Systems Support Division**

**Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1995 to 1998]

**United States Navy** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1998 to 2001]

**Rear Admiral**

**Lincoln University Alumni Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Life Member**

**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Life Member**

**National Naval Officers Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Life Member**

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Council of Negro Women** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**