

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bobby Bennett

PERSON

## Bennett, Bobby

**Alternative Names:** Bobby Bennett; Marshall Payne, III

**Life Dates:** July 20, 1943-September 8, 2015

**Place of Birth:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** Punta Gorda, FL

**Occupations:** Radio DJ

## Biographical Note

Radio DJ Bobby Bennett was born on July 20, 1943 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From a young age, Bennett knew that he wanted to be a radio DJ. Following high school, he enrolled in a broadcasting school in Pittsburgh.

In 1967, Bennett worked as a news reporter for Pittsburgh's WAMO-AM and WZUM radio stations. One year later, in 1968, he moved to WOL-AM in Washington, D.C., where he became known to radio fans as “The Mighty Burner” and hosted a show until 1980. Bennett then hosted a sports talk show on WTOP in the early 1980s, and served as program director for WHUR-FM from 1987 to 1992. After his time at WHUR, Bennett was hired as a morning talk show host at WXTR; and, in 1997, he became the host of an R&B radio show on WPFW-FM. In 2000, Bennett created the “Soul Street” channel for XM Satellite Radio, and served as its program director until 2010. During his career, he also was employed as a record executive and as a voice over narrator.

Bennett was the co-author of *The Ultimate Soul Music Trivia Book: 501 Questions and Answers About Motown, Rhythm & Blues, and More*, which was published in 1997. In 1988, Bennett was presented with several awards from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1972, he was named *Billboard* magazine’s R&B Disc Jockey of the Year, and, in 1973, was recognized as Disc Jockey of the Year by the *Gavin Report*.

Bennett passed away on September 8, 2015 at age 72.

## Related Entries

**Dilworth Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Westinghouse Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Gladstone High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Capitol Records, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**WAMO-AM** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1967]

**News Reporter**

**WZUM** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1967]

**News Reporter**

**WOL-AM** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to 1980]

**On-air Host**

**WTOP** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to ?]

**On-air Host**

**WHUR-FM** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1992]

**Program Director**

**WXTR** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to 1997]

**On-air Host**

**WPFW-FM** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 2000]

**On-air Host**

**Sirius XM Radio, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2000 to 2010]

**Creator and Program Director, Soul Street Channel**