

Biographical Sketches of Famous Virginians

Biographical sketches of Arthur Ashe, Maggie Walker, and L. Douglas Wilder are taken from *Virginia: The History and Culture of a Commonwealth*. Reprinted with permission from the Library of Virginia, John Kneebone, Publications Director.

Arthur Robert Ashe (1934–1993) was a native of Richmond and a professional tennis player. He became a national hero and role model when he was the first African American to win the U. S. Open Tennis Championship in 1968. Following a highly successful career as a tennis professional, he promoted racial understanding, wrote books on African-Americans in sports, and, after he contracted the disease from a blood transfusion, strove to educate people about AIDS.

John Hager served as a Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from Harvard. He worked in business for many years. Mr. Hager was stricken with polio as an adult, in 1973. Since that time he has used a wheelchair. Mr. Hager has served on many boards and commissions, including the Virginia Health Care Foundation. He works with businesses to create new jobs and promote new businesses in the state. Mr. Hager is the Chairman of the Disability Commission.

For more information, see the following website:

<http://www.state.va.us/lsgov/aboutjh.htm>

Note: John Hager is not mentioned in the video.

Mary Sue Terry served as the Attorney General of Virginia during the Wilder administration. She was the first female Attorney General in the state. She attended the University of Virginia Law School. Before serving as Attorney General, Ms. Terry was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for five terms. She was the Attorney General for two terms, and was the first Virginian and the first woman to become president of the National Association for Attorney Generals.

Note: Mary Sue Terry is not mentioned in the video.

Maggie Lena Walker (1867—1934) of Richmond, was the first woman bank president in the United States. As chief executive of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, she was one of the most influential African American women in Virginia. She fought for improvements in public education, fostered black businesses, and opposed racial segregation and prejudice.

Lawrence Douglas Wilder (1931 —), a native of Richmond, was governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1994. Wilder became a successful attorney and in 1969 was the first African American since the nineteenth century to be elected to the Senate of Virginia. He served sixteen years in the state senate, where he advocated fair housing legislation and increased minority hiring. In 1985, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, and in 1989 he was elected Governor of Virginia. Wilder was the first African American to be elected governor of a state.