

Dr. Richard E. Holmes' Formative Years: A Biographical Sketch

Dr. Richard E. Holmes was the first African American to attend Mississippi State University. After graduating from MSU with a Bachelor's degree in 1969, Holmes later attended medical school and practiced emergency and trauma medicine in Birmingham, Alabama before returning to Mississippi in 2003.

Directions: To learn more about Dr. Holmes' formative years in Starkville, Mississippi go to <http://starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu> and listen to the first 26 minutes of his interview and fill in the biographical information requested below.

Dr. Richard E. Holmes' Formative Years

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Grandmother's Name: _____

Grandmother's Three Beliefs: _____, _____, and _____

Item His Grandmother Sold Illegally: _____

Mentor's Name: _____ Mentor's Occupation: _____

High School Attended and Year of Graduation: _____

High School Teacher's Name Who Wouldn't Let Him Skip Class: _____

College Attended During His Freshman and Sophomore Year: _____

Semester and Year He First Attended Mississippi State University (MSU): _____

One Reason He Continued His Studies at MSU:

Advice He Was Given By the Police During His First Year at MSU:

Two Words Used To Describe His First Year at MSU: _____ and _____

What Happened When He Went to the Cafeteria and Library and Sat with Other Students:

Estimate of the MSU Faculty and Student Body who Treated Him Respectfully: _____

Cities Near Starkville where Racial Violence Occurred: _____ and _____

His Year of Graduation from MSU: _____ His First Occupation: _____

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ANSWER KEY

Date of Birth: **February 17, 1944** Place of Birth: **Chicago, Illinois**

Grandmother's Name: **Eliza Hunter**

Grandmother's Three Beliefs: **Hard work, going to school, and going to church**

Item His Grandmother Sold Illegally: **Whiskey**

Mentor's Name: **Douglas Conner** His Mentor's Occupation: **Doctor/Physician**

High School Attended and Year of Graduation: **Henderson High School/1964**

High School Teacher's Name Who Wouldn't Let Him Skip Class: **Rosa Stewart**

College For His Freshman and Sophomore Year: **Wiley College**

Semester and Year He First Attended Mississippi State University (MSU): **Summer 1965**

One Reason He Continued His Studies at MSU:

He continued at MSU so other African Americans would have the same opportunity.

Advice He Was Given By the Police During His First Year at MSU: **Don't walk to and from home to your classes; we can only protect you while you're on campus.**

Two Words Used To Describe His First Year at MSU: **"Isolated," "Depressing," and "Lonely"**
(any two)

What Happened When He Went to the Cafeteria and Library and Sat with Other Students:

The students already seated at the table would get up and leave.

Estimate of the MSU Faculty and Student Body who Treated Him Respectfully: **90%**

Cities Near Starkville where Racial Violence Occurred: **West Point and Columbus**

His Year of Graduation from MSU: **1969** His First Occupation: **Teacher**