

EUPHEMIA LOFTON HAYNES

1890 - 1980

Early Life

Haynes was born on September 11th, 1890 in Washington, D.C. Her parents were both prominent figures in the African American community in D.C. Her father was a dentist in the region who was known for helping African American Businesses, and her mother was an active member of the Catholic Church.

Contributions

In 1943, Haynes became the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. She also had a degree in education, allowing her to teach a variety of subjects in an educational environment that discriminated against people of colour. Despite this, she broke through the societal barriers to education.

Education

After graduating from high school in 1907, and from Miner Normal School in 1909, Haynes went to Smith College to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. Later, in 1930, she received her Master's degree in education from the University of Chicago. In 1943, she earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from the Catholic University of America.

Fun Facts

Haynes was also a prominent member of the Catholic Church. After retiring, she devoted her time to working with the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Committee of International Social Welfare, and also co-founded the Catholic Interracial Council of the District of Columbia. Her work eventually granted her the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, in 1959, on behalf of the Catholic Church.

Overcoming Adversity

After breaking down the racial barriers to education for herself, she went on to spend the rest of her life doing the same for others. For instance, she founded the Miner Teachers College's math department which focused on helping African Americans become teachers. Later she taught math at Dunbar High School, a historically Black high school in D.C. In 1960, she joined the District of Columbia's Board of Education, and later became its president in 1966, spending many years fighting for racial equality in education.



RESOURCE PAGE

"Euphemia Lofton Haynes - Facts, Math & Timeline." Biography, 3 Sept. 2020,

www.biography.com/scientists/euphemia-lofton-haynes.