

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard "Pete" Rawlings

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rawlings, Howard P.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings,
Dates:	February 25, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:44:19).
Abstract:	State delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings (1937 - 2003) was elected in 1979 to the Maryland House of Delegates, to represent the 40th District in Baltimore City. Rawlings became a key player in the legislature, making contributions in the areas of housing, health, education and economic development. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, he was one of the House's most influential members. Rawlings was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 25, 2001, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_063
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

In his twenty-three years of service in the Maryland House of Delegates, Howard "Pete" Rawlings advocated tirelessly for affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and minority opportunities in higher education. Raised in Baltimore's Edgar Allen Poe housing projects (the first public housing units in Baltimore); Rawlings went to Morgan State University, where he was inspired by a math professor to pursue studies in mathematics. After graduating with a B.A. in mathematics, he continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin, receiving a M.S. in mathematics.

While pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, Rawlings became interested in increasing the opportunities for African Americans in higher education. As an organizer and co-chair of the University of Maryland Baltimore County Black Caucus, Rawlings gained experience in coalition building and legislative advocacy. This led to a position as head of the healthcare advocacy group the Maryland Community Health Counsel, and his decision to run for State Delegate in 1978.

Rawlings was elected in 1979 to the Maryland House of Delegates, to represent the 40th District in Baltimore City. Rawlings became a key player in the legislature, making contributions in the areas of housing, health, education and economic development. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, he was one of the House's most influential members. Rawlings was at the forefront of reforming inner city public schools and has authored legislation that would ban racial profiling in Maryland.

Rawlings sat on numerous boards including the Maryland Education Coalition, the Maryland Historical Society and the Maryland Low Income Housing Coalition. He has sat on various statewide and national task forces including the Governor's Task Force to Reform the State Personnel Management System; the Task Force on

Education Funding Equity, Accountability, and Partnerships; and the Task Force to Study the Governance, Coordination, and Funding of the University System of Maryland. In 1997, Rawlings received the Education Commission of the States' Chairmen's Award for Outstanding Service, and in 1999 he was named by Baltimore Magazine as one of the Baltimoreans of the year.

Rawlings lived in the 40th District, in Baltimore City, with his wife Nina. They have three children. Rawlings passed away on November 14, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on February 25, 2001, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. State delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings (1937 - 2003) was elected in 1979 to the Maryland House of Delegates, to represent the 40th District in Baltimore City. Rawlings became a key player in the legislature, making contributions in the areas of housing, health, education and economic development. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, he was one of the House's most influential members.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Rawlings, Howard P.

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rawlings, Howard P.--Interviews

African American legislators--Maryland--Interviews

African American politicians--Maryland--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Maryland

Occupations:

State Delegate

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, February 25, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_001, TRT: 0:29:46 ?

Howard P. Rawlings details his parents backgrounds and his childhood in Baltimore, Maryland. Rawlings grew up in the Edgar Allan Poe housing projects, and recalls his neighborhood as well. He also discusses his elementary and junior high school years in the Baltimore public school system.

African American legislators--Maryland--Interviews.

African American politicians--Maryland--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_002, TRT: 0:31:18 ?

Legislator and housing advocate Howard P. Rawlings outlines his educational history and how his hopes to become an engineer were formed. Intreagued by math, Rawlings pursued it further while at Morgan State. A fellowship offer from the University of Wisconsin led him to leave Maryland for the first time. Ralwings also describes his courtship with his future wife, Nina.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_003, TRT: 0:30:15 ?

Educator and legislator, Howard P. Rawlings details how his heart led him to follow his true love back to Maryland after wroking on his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. After securing a teaching position at Morgans State and helping to establish a beachhead for a Black Studies department, rawlings found the college administration suddenly hostile to his efforts. As a math professor whose students were increasingly more successful, Rawlings was summarily fired. Only after a braod colaition of students protested the move was he reinstated for a single year. Rawlings then explains how that job loss put him on the path to politics.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_004, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Legislator and educator, Howard P. Rawlings discusses issues confronting Maryland's black community including education, political representation. He also discusses major problems in the Baltimore public school system, the waste and rampant fraud.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_005, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Educator and legislator, Howard P. Rawlings, details his political career in the Maryland State Legislature, the issues he fought for and some difficulties faced in and out of the House. rawlings describes the accomplishments of his children and then finally what he hopes to leave as a legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Section A2001_063_001_006, TRT: 0:11:30 ?