

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Virgil Norris

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## Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Norris, Virgil
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Virgil Norris,
Dates:	April 17, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:54:58).
Abstract:	Surgeon Dr. Virgil Norris ( - 2014 ) has been in private practice since 1969 and has served on staff at Bethesda Memorial Hospital and Delray Community Hospital. Norris is a member of Palm Beach County Medical Society, Florida Medical Association, and the American Medical Association. He has served as president of the Delray Club, Masonic Lodge, Naciremas Club and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Norris was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 17, 2002, in Boca Raton, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_062
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, Virgil C. Norris has practiced medicine in the Palm Beach area for forty years. He graduated with his B.S. from Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia, in 1950. He went on to study medicine at Meharry Medical College in Tennessee and received his M.D. in 1959. Dr. Norris has enjoyed a twenty-seven year career as a surgeon and general practitioner for the Palm Beach community.

Norris was certified by the American Board of Surgery in 1975 and became a fellow at the American College of Surgeons in 1977. He has been in private practice since 1969 and has served on staff at Bethesda Memorial Hospital and Delray Community Hospital. He is a member of Palm Beach County Medical Society, Florida Medical Association, American Medical Association, the National Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.

Aside from practicing medicine, Norris takes an active role in his community. He has served as president of the Delray Club, Masonic Lodge, Naciremas Club and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and as a member of the NAACP, ACLU, Delray Board of Realtors and St. Paul A.M.E. Church. Norris received the First Annual Black Award for Medicine and Health Care in 1989. He and his wife Barbara have six children.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Virgil Norris was conducted by Samuel Adams on April 17, 2002, in Boca Raton, Florida, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Surgeon Dr. Virgil Norris ( - 2014 ) has been in private practice since 1969 and has served on staff at Bethesda Memorial Hospital and Delray Community

Hospital. Norris is a member of Palm Beach County Medical Society, Florida Medical Association, and the American Medical Association. He has served as president of the Delray Club, Masonic Lodge, Naciremas Club and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

- Norris, Virgil
- Adams, Samuel (Interviewer)
- Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

- African Americans--Interviews
  - Norris, Virgil--Interviews
  - African American surgeons--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews
  - Community activists--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews
  - African American physicians--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews
  - African American families--Florida
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African Americans--Genealogy

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Hampton University (Va.)

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United States--Armed Forces--African Americans

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Draft--United States

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Meharry Medical College

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Hospitals--Florida--Boynton Beach

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Civil rights movement--Florida--Delray Beach

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Health maintenance organizations--United States

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Education, Medical--Florida--Delray Beach

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**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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**Occupations:**

Surgeon

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**HistoryMakers® Category:**

MedicalMakers

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**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 Dr. Virgil Norris, April 17, 2002. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Virgil Norris, Section A2002\_062\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:25 ?

Surgeon Virgil Norris talks about his family's background and gives details on his parents' lives. He recounts growing up in Tallahassee, Florida as he recalls elementary school and the mentors that influenced him. Norris tells of his academic interests and discusses his personality as a serious student during his high school career.

African American surgeons--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews.

Community activists--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews.

African American physicians--Florida--Delray Beach--Interviews.

African American families--Florida.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Hampton University (Va.).

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

Draft--United States.

Meharry Medical College.

Hospitals--Florida--Boynton Beach.

Civil rights movements--Florida--Delray Beach.

Health maintenance organizations--United States.

Education, Medical--Florida--Delray Beach.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Virgil Norris, Section A2002\_062\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:15 ?

Surgeon Virgil Norris recounts his experiences at Hampton Institute and discusses his personality as a student. He tells of how he was drafted into the military upon his graduation from undergraduate school and discusses his experiences there. Virgil Norris explains his decision to attend Meharry Medical College, talks about his studies there and then mentions his medical practice in Delray Beach, Florida.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Virgil Norris, Section A2002\_062\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Surgeon Virgil Norris recalls his early years at Bethesda Hospital and then moves into discussing how the Civil Rights Movement impacted his community and life. He then illustrates his experiences as a surgeon and general practitioner. Norris talks about educating the community on how to seek preventative and

necessary medical care.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Virgil Norris, Section A2002\_062\_001\_004, TRT: 0:27:18 ?

Surgeon Virgil Norris discusses problems in healthcare for African Americans. He then talks about the opportunities and difficulties for young black doctors before considering his legacy.