

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Knowlton R. Atterbeary

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Atterbeary, Knowlton, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Knowlton R. Atterbeary,
Dates:	July 25, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:55:25).
Abstract:	Entrepreneur Knowlton R. Atterbeary (1946 -) was senior vice president and partner at Macro International, before founding KRA Corporation, a professional and technical services firm that has also been lauded for its community involvement and won numerous awards. Atterbeary was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 25, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_171
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Knowlton Atterbeary was born on September 18, 1946, in Philadelphia. He attended public schools in Crodon and Bristol Township, Pennsylvania, before attending Michigan State University in 1964, where he received a B.S. in systems science and economics in 1968 and an M.B.A. in 1970.

At Michigan State University, he worked as the graduate student director of the Computer Institute for Social Science Research. After earning his M.B.A., he worked for a year as the director of marketing for the Black Economic Union of Kansas City, Missouri. From 1972 to 1991, he was employed at the consulting firm Macro International as senior vice president and partner.

In 1981, Atterbeary founded KRA Corporation, a professional and technical services firm headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he continues to serve as president and CEO. Under his leadership KRA has grown from a staff of 6 to more than 400 employees. For four consecutive years, *Inc. Magazine* named KRA as one of the 500 fastest-growing, privately held companies in the United States. KRA has also been lauded for its community involvement with HIV/AIDS prevention, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, and the promotion of minority- and woman-owned businesses.

The numerous awards and honors bestowed on Atterbeary and his company include Small Disadvantaged Business Contractor of the Year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1997 Outstanding Minority Business Enterprise by the Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and the Food and Drug Administration Director's Special Citation for Sustained Superior Performance.

Atterbeary actively promotes small businesses through his participation in the National Coalition of Minority Businesses, the Small Business Federation and other organizations. He is a member of the Small Business Task

Force and the South Africa Working Group of the Corporate Council on Africa. He serves as treasurer for the National Coalition for Minority Businesses and as chairman of the Small Business Committee for the National Job Corps Association, among other professional affiliations.

Atterbeary lives with his wife, Rosalynne, in Clarksville, Maryland. They have two children, Knowlton R. Atterbeary III and Vanessa Elaine Atterbeary.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Knowlton R. Atterbeary was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 25, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Entrepreneur Knowlton R. Atterbeary (1946 -) was senior vice president and partner at Macro International, before founding KRA Corporation, a professional and technical services firm that has also been lauded for its community involvement and won numerous awards.

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:

Atterbeary, Knowlton, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Atterbeary, Knowlton, 1946---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Entrepreneur

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Knowlton R. Atterbeary, July 25, 2003. 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 Knowlton R. Atterbeary, Section A2003_171_001_001, TRT: 0:29:35 ?

Knowlton R. Atterbeary, management consultant, talks about his family background, childhood, and education. His mother, educator Ida Marie Wright, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1923 to Roger Wright, an undertaker who managed his own funeral parlor, and Eva Lou Haugabook, who was born in Albany, Georgia in 1903. Atterbeary's father, Knowlton R. Atterbeary, Sr. was born in Columbia, South Carolina in 1921 and received his dental degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. before running a practice in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a rural area. Atterbeary's paternal grandparents were formerly enslaved in South Carolina. Born in Philadelphia, Atterbeary grew up in Bucks County, where he was the only African American child in his elementary school. He talks about his experience of racial discrimination as a child and his parents approach to race. At Delhaas High School in Bristol, Pennsylvania, he had more black classmates and became interested in science, football, and student government.

Video Oral History Interview with Knowlton R. Atterbeary, Section A2003_171_001_002, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Knowlton R. Atterbeary talks about his college career. In his last year at Delhaas High School in Bristol, Pennsylvania, Atterbeary began to lose his sense of direction, but his father insisted he attend college. Atterbeary enrolled in Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan in 1964, during the Civil Rights Movement. The previous year, he and his father had participated in the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., and at Michigan State, he joined black student organizations and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. In college, Atterbeary double majored in urban sociology and computer science. After graduating in 1968, he continued his studies at Michigan State University where he earned his M.B.A. degree in 1970. During graduate school, he worked with the Computer Institute for Social Research in East Lansing and university's Upward Bound Program to expose disadvantaged youth to computer technology and programming.

Video Oral History Interview with Knowlton R. Atterbeary, Section A2003_171_001_003, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Knowlton R. Atterbeary talks about his business career. Upon receiving his M.B.A. degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing in 1971, he decided to take a job at the Black Economic Union of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked with Curtis McClinton of the Kansas City Chiefs and others to foster local black entrepreneurship. After assisting several minority business ventures in the fiberglass, gasoline, and printing industries, Atterbeary decided to move east to be closer to his family in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, taking a job with Makro International, a consulting firm in Silver Spring, Maryland. Advancing rapidly at Makro to the position of vice president, Atterbeary partnered with several others to acquire the company around 1980. That same year, he founded his own business, KRA Corporation. KRA's three lines of work are vocational training for youth and adults, management consulting, and providing businesses with information about federal regulations.

Video Oral History Interview with Knowlton R. Atterbeary, Section A2003_171_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Knowlton R. Atterbeary reflects on his career as a social entrepreneur. His firm, KRA Corporation, operates residential vocational academies across the United States, and has expanded into South Africa. Atterbeary talks about working to change the cultural perception of for-profit industries in South Africa through

service-oriented business practices. He also talks about how private contractors like KRA Corporation, help provide government services in the United States and in South Africa. Atterbeary describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, how he would like to be remembered, and his legacy. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.