

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Walter Furnace

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Furnace, Walter, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace,
Dates:	September 15, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:43:33).
Abstract:	State representative Walter Furnace (1943 -) was president of the Anchorage, Alaska School Board, and served as a member of the Alaska State House of Representatives. Furnace was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 15, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_163
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

State representative Walter Furnace was born on December 31, 1943 in Ennis, Texas to L.D. Birdow and Janet Medlock. He graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1962, and enlisted in the United States Air Force and spent his final two years of service in Anchorage, Alaska. In 1966, he attended Gambell Street Business College and received his B.B.A. degree in business administration from the University of Alaska, Anchorage in 1972. He later graduated from the SouthWest CUNA Management School in 2009. After his U.S. military service, Furnace was hired as a management trainee at the National Bank of Alaska. In 1971, he was named assistant vice president and branch manager of the bank, a position he held for over nine years. After his graduation from the University of Alaska, Furnace was hired as president of the Parent Teacher Association in Anchorage. As president of the PTA, he was elected to a position on the Anchorage School Board. Nine months later, he was elected as president of the School Board. During his time on the School Board, Furnace spent a great deal of time “lobbying” for educational initiatives in the state capital, Juneau. In 1982, Furnace was elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives. He served a total of four terms as a state representative and focused on funding education programs within the state. Furnace returned to the financial services industry in 1994 as the assistant vice president and branch manager for Nations Bank Mortgage. In 1998, he left Nations Bank and joined American Airlines Federal Credit Union in Dallas, Texas as the government and industry relations manager. While in that position, Furnace coordinated the company’s legislative efforts by working with state, local and federal governments, as well as the media, and helped create policy proposals. Furnace was recognized at the national level for his commitment to education and for his successful career. In 2014, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions awarded him the Paul Revere Award for Outstanding Grassroots Advocacy. Furnace’s life was profiled by Randall Kenan in the book, *Walking on Water: Black America Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century*, which was published in 1999. Furnace has five daughters: Carmella, Dana, Perdita, Samantha and Tara.

Walter Furnace was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 15, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Walter Furnace was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 15, 2017, in Dallas, Texas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. State representative Walter Furnace (1943 -) was president of the Anchorage, Alaska School Board, and served as a member of the Alaska State House of Representatives.

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:

Furnace, Walter, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Furnace, Walter, 1943- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

State Representative

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 Walter Furnace, September 15, 2017. 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 Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_001, TRT: 1:29:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_002, TRT: 2:31:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_003, TRT: 3:29:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_004, TRT: 4:30:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_005, TRT: 5:30:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_006, TRT: 6:29:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_007, TRT: 7:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Walter Furnace, Section A2017_163_001_008, TRT: 8:14:00 ?