

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable J.C. Watts

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Watts, J. C. (Julius Caesar), 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts,
Dates:	November 1, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:15:44).
Abstract:	Political leader J.C. Watts (1957-) served as a commissioner on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma's 4th District from 1995 until 2003. Watts was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 1, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_196
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader J.C. Watts was born on November 18, 1957 in Eufaula, Oklahoma to J.C. Watts, Sr. and Helen Watts. Watts originally attended Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Eufaula, but became one of two children to integrate Jefferson Davis Elementary School in 1964. Watts graduated from Eufaula High School in 1976. Watts attended the University of Oklahoma and was starting quarterback for the football team in 1979, and led the team to two Orange Bowls victories and two Big Eight championships. Watts graduated in 1981 with his B.A. degree in journalism.

In 1981, Watts joined the Ottawa Rough Riders, a team in the Canadian Football League. He led the team to the Grey Cup the same year and was named Most Valuable Player. In 1985, Watts joined the Toronto Argonauts, where he played his final season in the CFL. In 1987, Watts became a youth minister at Sunnyvale Baptist Church in Del City, Oklahoma. In the same year, he founded Ironhead Construction and Watts Energy. In 1990, Watts was elected to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. In 1992, he became the commission's chairman and served until his term ended in 1995. In 1994, Watts was elected to the House of Representatives from Oklahoma's 4th District. Watts was reelected as representative in 1996, 1998, and 2000. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, he served on the Armed Services Committee, the Banking and Financial Services Committee, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In 1997, Watts was chosen by House Speaker Newt Gingrich to deliver the Republican Party's response to President Clinton's State of the Union address. In 1998, Watts was elected as House Republican Conference Chair. After serving in U.S. Congress, Watts founded J.C. Watts Companies in 2003 and the J.C. & Frankie Watts Foundation in 2005. In 2017, Watts announced the 2018 launch of the Black Television News Channel.

Watts served as director of companies such as Dillards, Inc., CSX Corporation, and ITC Holdings. He also served as the CEO of Feed the Children in 2016. In 2002, Watts published his autobiography, *What Color is Conservative?: My Life and My Politics*. Watts was also recognized for his athletic ability. In 1992, J.C. Watts was

inducted into the Orange Bowl Hall of Fame was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

J.C. Watts and his wife, Frankie Watts, have five children: Kesha, Trey, Jerrel, Jennifer, and Julia.

J.C. Watts was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 1, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts was conducted by Randall Pinkston on November 1, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader J.C. Watts (1957-) served as a commissioner on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma's 4th District from 1995 until 2003.

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:

Watts, J. C. (Julius Caesar), 1957-

Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Watts, J. C. (Julius Caesar), 1957- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Political Leader

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 The Honorable J.C. Watts, November 1, 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 The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_001, TRT: 1:33:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_002, TRT: 2:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_003, TRT: 3:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_004, TRT: 4:31:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_005, TRT: 5:32:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable J.C. Watts, Section A2017_196_001_006, TRT: 6:39:36 ?