

# Finding Aid to Pioneers in the Struggle: Kick-Off Event (Chicago 2001)

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	The HistoryMakers
<b>Title:</b>	Pioneers in the Struggle: Kick-Off Event (Chicago 2001),
<b>Dates:</b>	May 1, 2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Box Paper Records.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>This collection contains detailed records of Pioneers in the Struggle Teacher Training. As part of a \$300,000 grant from the State of Illinois, The HistoryMakers produced the educational program entitled Pioneers in the Struggle. Pioneers in the Struggle is a three-part educational package that includes a documentary video, interactive CD-ROM and teachers' curriculum guide that chronicles the little known and fascinating history of African American participation in the Illinois General Assembly from 1877-2001. This collection contains records of the kick-off event. The HistoryMakers held a kick-off wine and cheese reception for Pioneers in the Struggle at The Art Institute of Chicago located at 111 S. Michigan Avenue in the Woman's Board Room, located on the lower level on Tuesday, May 1st 2001 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Attendees learned more about this exciting and important project. The reception included demonstrations of the following: a CD-ROM featuring biographies from African American members of the Illinois General Assembly from 1877 to the present including Cecil A. Partee, Charles Chew and Harold Washington; The Teachers Guide and Curriculum materials prepared by Chicago Metro History Fair and The HistoryMakers promotional video, "This Important History." Pioneers in the Struggle traces the history of African Americans in the Illinois General Assembly from the Reconstruction Days of John W.E. Thomas to 2001, when the project was completed. These African American statesmen and stateswomen were responsible for many of the civil rights that today's citizens hold. Pioneers in the Struggle features interviews from former Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., Secretary of State Jesse White, Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, the late Mayor Harold Washington, President Barack Obama, when he was a State Senator and many others who served in the Illinois General Assembly. The HistoryMakers also interviewed political science scholars Chares Branham, Christopher Reed, David Joens, and Dick Simpson for the project. The Pioneers in the Struggle documentary was produced by Julieanna L. Richardson. The HistoryMakers videotaped the following interviews as part of this documentary: State Senators: Ethel Skyles-Alexander, Howard Brookins, Earlean Collins, James Clayborne, Jr., Rickey Hendon, Emil Jones, Jr., Kimberly Lightford, Barack Obama, Alice Palmer, William "Bill" Shaw State Representatives: Larry Bullock, Monique Davis, Mary Flowers, Calvin Giles, Constance Howard, Howard Kenner, Jesse Madison, Charles Morrow III, Sylvester Rhem, Monica Faith Stewart, Arthur Turner, Todd Stroger, Jerry Washington, Paul Williams, Clarence Williamson, Jesse White and Anthony Young.</p>
<b>Identification:</b>	S2001_014
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

## **Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®**

### **The HistoryMakers**

The HistoryMakers is a national 501(c)(3) non profit educational institution founded in 1999, committed to preserving, developing and providing easy access to an internationally recognized, archival collection of thousands of African American video oral histories. The HistoryMakers is the single largest archival collection of its kind in the world designed to promote and celebrate the successes and to document movements, events and organizations that are important to the African American community and to American society.

The HistoryMakers is the next methodic and wide-scale collection effort since the WPA Slave Narratives Project from 1936 to 1938. The HistoryMakers goal is to complete 5,000 interviews of both well-known and unsung African American HistoryMakers. In recording messages of leadership, achievement and perseverance embodied in these life stories, The HistoryMakers has disseminates its holdings through traditional and interactive media as well as public programs, special events, an interactive website and a unique digital archive.

The purpose of this archive is to educate the world on the accomplishments of African Americans, show the breadth and depth of this important American history as told in the first person, highlight the accomplishments of individual African Americans, showcase those who have played a role in African American-led movements and/or organizations and preserve these video oral histories for years and generations to come.

### **Hon. Ethel Skyles Alexander**

State representative and state senator Hon. Ethel Skyles Alexander (1925 - ) was known for waving a red handkerchief in the air whenever she wanted to discuss an issue with fellow legislators, and served as vice chair of the Elections and Reapportionment Committee in the Illinois State Senate. She co-sponsored a bill that prohibited state agencies from trading with apartheid-era South Africa and sponsored legislation that toughened child pornography laws.

### **Hon. Howard Brookins**

State senator Hon. Howard Brookins (1932 - ) is the owner of Brookins Funeral Home, and has served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois State Senate.

### **Hon. Larry Bullock**

State representative Hon. Larry Bullock (1946 - ) has served a total of four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, is an ordained minister at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church and is the president of his own construction company.

### **Hon. James Clayborne**

Lawyer and state senator Hon. James Clayborne (1963 - ) Hon. James Clayborne was appointed to complete Senator Kenneth Hall's unexpired term when he died in 1995. Clayborn was then elected in 1997 and sat on the Committees of Appropriations, Commerce & Industry, and Revenue, for which he is the Minority Spokesperson.

### **Hon. Earlean Collins**

City commissioner and county commissioner Hon. Earlean Collins ( - ) was introduced to politics by her former husband Otis Collins. In 1976, Collins became the first African American female to be elected to the Illinois

Senate. After twenty years in the Illinois State Senate, Collins was elected to be the Commissioner of the Cook County Board.

## **Hon. Ray Ewell**

State representative Hon. Ray Ewell (1928 - ) served in the Illinois State Legislature until 1983, during which the first Black Caucus was formed. Upon retirement, Ewell began managing his own real estate firm.

## **Hon. Mary Flowers**

State representative Hon. Mary Flowers (1951 - ) started her career in politics as a volunteer for Harold Washington's mayoral campaign and was subsequently elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1985. Flowers represents the 31st District in Chicago focusing on health care and children's rights legislation, including the Illinois Managed Care Act.

## **Hon. Calvin Giles**

State representative Hon. Calvin Giles (1962 - ) represents the Chicago Westside 8th Congressional District.

## **Hon. Rickey Hendon**

State senator Hon. Rickey Hendon (1953 - ) was elected to the Illinois State Senate, where he served as the Senate Minority Spokesperson of the State Government Operations Committee as well as a member of the Committees on Appropriations and Insurance & Pensions.

## **Hon. Constance "Connie" Howard**

State representative Hon. Constance "Connie" Howard (1942 - ) was the Democratic State Central Committeeperson from the 1st Congressional District, and held a seat in the Illinois General Assembly.

## **Hon. Howard A. Kenner**

State representative Hon. Howard A. Kenner (1957 - ) serves on the Committees of Appropriations-General Services, Insurance and Human Services and is the Chairperson of the Illinois State Government Administration and Government Oversight Committee.

## **Hon. Kimberly Lightford**

State senator Hon. Kimberly Lightford (1968 - ) was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1998. Senator Lightford serves as Minority Spokesperson of the Committee on Financial Institutions as well as Co-Chair of the Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation.

## **Hon. Jesse Madison**

State representative Hon. Jesse Madison (1939 - ) served in the Illinois House of Representatives, after which he was appointed as the Vice President of Finance and Administration for the National Urban League. He later accepted an appointment as the Commissioner of Consumer Services and Commissioner of the Chicago Park District under Mayor Harold Washington.

## **Hon. Charles Morrow**

State representative Hon. Charles Morrow (1956 - ) represents the 32nd district of Illinois and was first elected in 1987. Prior to that, Morrow worked for People's Gas and the Coca Cola Company for eighteen years.

## **Hon. Barack Obama**

State senator, president, and U.S. senator Hon. Barack Obama (1961 - ) ran for a vacant State Senate seat in 1996, and was successfully elected to represent the 13th Legislative District. In 2004, Obama successfully ran for a seat in the United States Senate representing Illinois, becoming only the fifth African American Senator in United States history. On November 4, 2008, Obama became the first African American president-elect when he won the election for President of the United States. Obama was sworn-in as U.S. president on January 20, 2009.

## **Alice Palmer**

State senator Alice Palmer (1939 - ) served as the associate dean and director of African American Student Affairs at Northwestern University before replacing Richard Newhouse in the Illinois Senate, where she was a member of the Appropriations II Committee.

## **Hon. Sylvester Rhem**

State representative Hon. Sylvester Rhem (1929 - ) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served from 1981 to 1985. Rhem also worked for the Department of Human Services for the City of Chicago and A.J. Rhem and Associates, a technology services consulting firm.

## **Hon. William E. Shaw**

State senator and mayor Hon. William E. Shaw (1937 - 2008 ) served in the Illinois General Assembly for twenty years. Ten of those years were spent as a state senator. After leaving the senate, Shaw was elected mayor of Dalton, Illinois. Shaw was instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of \$4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois.

## **Hon. Monica Stewart**

State representative and state government official Hon. Monica Stewart (1952 - ) was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1981, where she served on the Executive and Public Utilities Committees. Since 1994, Stewart has served as the director of the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment in South Africa.

## **Hon. Todd Stroger**

City alderman and state representative Hon. Todd Stroger (1963 - ) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, and served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. In 2006, Stroger replaced his father, John Stroger, as Cook County Board president.

## **Hon. Arthur Turner**

State representative Hon. Arthur Turner (1950 - ) has been an Illinois State Representative since 1981.

## **Hon. Jerry Washington**

State representative Hon. Jerry Washington (1940 - ) represented the 24th District in the Illinois General Assembly, serving as a member of the House Committees on Appropriation, Election, Revenue and others. He was also a member of the 84th General Assembly Special Education Task Force.

## **Hon. Jesse White**

State government appointee Hon. Jesse White (1934 - ) is the first African American to be elected as Secretary of State for Illinois and is the founder of the world renowned Jesse White Tumblers youth tumbling team.

## **Hon. Paul Williams**

State representative Hon. Paul Williams (1953 - ) was voted one of the “10 Best Legislators” by Chicago Magazine, and has been credited with saving high school health clinics from budget cuts. He was also instrumental in establishing the Chicago Housing Authority Police Force, as well as in forming an independent Cook County Public Defender’s Office.

## **Hon. Clarence Williamson**

State representative Hon. Clarence Williamson (1930 - ) served in the Illinois House of Representatives, and has held positions with New York Life Insurance and the Cook County Department of Probation.

## **Hon. Anthony Young**

County circuit court judge and state representative Hon. Anthony Young (1948 - ) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1984. In 1992, Young left the Illinois General Assembly and became a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Domestic Relations Division. Prior to his career in politics, Young was a member of the United States Air Force and practiced law in Chicago.

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## **Scope and Content**

This collection contains administrative records from The Pioneers in the Struggle Kick-Off Event from May 1, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection contains records of the kick-off event. The HistoryMakers held a kick-off wine and cheese reception for Pioneers in the Struggle at The Art Institute of Chicago located at 111 S. Michigan Avenue in the Woman's Board Room, located on the lower level on Tuesday, May 1st 2001 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Attendees learned more about this exciting and important project. The reception included demonstrations of the following: a CD-ROM featuring biographies from African American members of the Illinois General Assembly from 1877 to the present including Cecil A. Partee, Charles Chew and Harold Washington; The Teachers Guide and Curriculum materials prepared by Chicago Metro History Fair and The HistoryMakers promotional video, “This Important History.”

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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

Additional information pertaining to this special collection 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:**

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Executive Producer)

### **Persons: Featured**

Branham, Charles (Featured)

Bullock, Larry (Featured)

Clayborne, James, Jr. (Featured)

Collins, Earlean (Featured)

Davis, Monique (Featured)

Flowers, Mary (Featured)

Giles, Calvin (Featured)

Howard, Constance "Connie" (Featured)

Joens, David (Featured)

Jones, Emil, Jr. (Featured)

Kenner, Howard (Featured)

Lightford, Kimberly (Featured)

Madigan, Michael J. (Featured)

Madison, Jesse (Featured)

Morrow, Charles, III (Featured)

Obama, Barack (Featured)

Reed, Chirstopher (Featured)

Rhem, Sylvester (Featured)

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Featured)

Shaw, William "Bill" (Featured)

Simpson, Dick (Featured)

Skyles-Alexander, Ethel (Featured)

Stewart, Monica Faith (Featured)

Turner, Arthur (Featured)

Washington, Jerry (Featured)

White, Jesse (Featured)

Williams, Paul (Featured)

Williamson, Clarence (Featured)

Young, Anthony (Featured)

**Subjects:**

African American politicians--Interviews  
Education  
Illinois  
Politics

**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois. General Assembly.

**HistoryMakers® Category:**

PoliticalMakers

**Administrative Information**

**Custodial History**

Event 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

Pioneers in the Struggle: Kick-Off Event (Chicago 2001), May 1, 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 2/8/2014 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 additional data pertaining to this special collection..

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## Container List

### Series II: Administrative Records and Production Information, 2001

#### **Pioneers in the Struggle: Kick-Off Event (Chicago 2001), Box# 1 (0.4 Linear Feet)**

- Folder# 1: Fundraising, Chairs, Decline
- Folder# 2: Fundraising, Co-Chairs
- Folder# 3: Fundraising, Committee (Host Committee)
- Folder# 4: Fundraising, Committee, Correspondence (Host Committee)
- Folder# 5: Fundraising, Committes, Decline
- Folder# 6: Fundraising, Mailings, Contact Lists (Schools)
- Folder# 7: Fundraising, Sponsors
- Folder# 8: Event, Flowers
- Folder# 9: Event, Food
- Folder# 10: Event, Food
- Folder# 11: Event, Planner
- Folder# 12: Event, Printed Materials
- Folder# 14: Event, Printed Materials, Flyers
- Folder# 13: Event, Printed Materials, Invitations
- Folder# 15: Event, Printed Materials, Program Book
- Folder# 16: Event, Public Relations, Press
- Folder# 17: Event, Public Relations, Press (Ads)
- Folder# 18: Event, Public Relations, Press (News Articles)
- Folder# 19: Event, Public Relations, Press (Press Release)
- Folder# 20: Event, Travel & Transportation
- Folder# 21: Event, Venue



Folder# 22: Event, RSVPs (Accept)

**Pioneers in the Struggle: Kick-Off Event (Chicago 2001), Box# 2 (0.4 Linear Feet)**

Folder# 23: Event, RSVPs (Accept Lists)

Folder# 24: Event, RSVPs (Correspondence)

Folder# 25: Event, RSVPs (Decline)

Folder# 26: Event, RSVPs (Forms)

Folder# 27: Event, RSVPs (Letters)

Folder# 28: Event, RSVPs (Phone Outreach)

Folder# 29: Event, Thank Yous

Folder# 30: Production, Agreements

Folder# 31: Production, Correspondence

Folder# 32: Production, Notes

Folder# 33: Production, Schedule

Folder# 34: Production, Script

Folder# 35: Production, Talent, Honoree