Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hon. Monique Davis

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Davis, Monique

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Monique Davis,

Dates: July 7, 2000

Bulk Dates: 2000

Physical Description: 4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:35:20).

Abstract: State representative Hon. Monique Davis (1936 - ) is a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, where she has sat on the committees on appropriation, consumer protection, urban redevelopment, public utilities and election law. She is also the vice chairperson of the Elementary-Secondary Education Committee. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 7, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2000_048

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Monique Dionne Davis was born August 19, 1936, in Chicago to James and Constance McKay. After graduating from Calumet High School at age sixteen, Davis attended one semester at Chicago State University, leaving to get married and move to Denver. After having two children, Robert and Monique, Davis returned to Chicago State University and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1966. The following January, Davis began teaching at Gresham Elementary School in Chicago. She later returned to school to earn a master’s degree in guidance and counseling.

Davis’ political career began as a volunteer to Democratic candidates Gus Savage, Monica Faith Stewart and Harold Washington. In 1986, she was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where she serves today. Davis has sat on the committees on appropriation, consumer protection, urban redevelopment, public utilities and election law. She is the vice-chairperson of the Elementary-Secondary Education Committee.

Monique Davis is active in many organizations and the recipient of several awards, including Teacher of the Year from Gresham School, Teacher Who Makes a Difference from the Center for New Schools, and Excellent Legislator from Operation PUSH and the Department of Aging.

Monique Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 7, 2000.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Hon. Monique Davis was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 7, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. State representative Hon. Monique
Davis (1936 - ) is a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, where she has sat on the committees on appropriation, consumer protection, urban redevelopment, public utilities and election law. She is also the vice chairperson of the Elementary-Secondary Education Committee.

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:

Davis, Monique
Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)
Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hon. Monique Davis--Interviews
African American legislators--Illinois.
Illinois. General Assembly--House of Representatives.
African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Organizations:
HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

**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**


**Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/5/2012 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, July 7, 2000**

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Monique Davis, Section A2000_048_001_001, TRT: 0:30:36 2000/07/07

Illinois State Representative Monique Davis grew up on the South Side of Chicago on the 95th Harvard block in Chicago, Illinois, with her mother, Constance McKay, her father, James McKay, and eight siblings, Lucille, Ruth, Ethlyn, James Jr., Virginia, Jocelyn and Connie. Monique Davis’ parents
encouraged education. They were both avid readers. Mr. Davis read newspapers and discussed current events with the family. Mrs. Davis frequently read books. Monique Davis and her siblings were involved in extracurricular activities. They all participated in piano lessons and recitals, which were attended by family and members of the community. The people in the community supported one another. The families in Davis’ childhood community created a closely knit community that provided a sense of security and independence.

African American neighborhoods--Illinois.
African American children--Education (Elementary)--Illinois--Chicago.
African Americans--Education.
African Americans--Illinois--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Monique Davis, Section A2000_048_001_002, TRT: 0:30:22 2000/07/07

Monique Davis’ mother, Constance McKay, was born in Monroe, Louisiana and grew up in Houston, Texas. Davis’ father, James McKay, was born in Savannah and raised in Macon, Georgia. Davis’ maternal grandparents, Virginia or “Mother V” and “Papa Dutton”, lived in Houston, Texas. Davis’ paternal grandparents, “Grandma Van” and “Papa” were from Savannah, Georgia. Davis’ entire community was centered on togetherness, which enabled her to define her own self-worth. At seventeen, Davis married Robert Davis when he was drafted into the war and assigned to Korea. By the age of nineteen, Davis was married with two children. Davis returned to college at the age of twenty-seven upon her mother’s advice to “get the knowledge”. Davis began teaching at Gresham Elementary in 1967. Davis provided resources in her community. The combination of family upbringing, value in education and religion, and outreach efforts in the community is how she became a legislator.

African American high school students--Illinois--Chicago.
African American families.
African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Religion.
Racism in education--United States.
Racism in higher education.
African American teachers and the community.

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Monique Davis, Section A2000_048_001_003, TRT: 0:29:49 2000/07/07

Monique Davis discussed some of the racial practices within the Chicago Public School system during a particular time in history. Davis described how she first became involved in politics. She also described her duties as a coordinator for the Harold Washington campaign for the Illinois General Assembly. Davis detailed the duties and responsibilities of the legislature, what it means to be an Independent Democrat, and highlighted many successful initiatives she has supported through appropriations over her years as an Illinois House Representative.

Board of Education of the City of Chicago.
Byrd, Manford
African American politicians.
Illinois State Police
Racism in education--Illinois--Chicago--History--20th Century
Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Monique Davis, Section A2000_048_001_004, TRT: 0:04:33 2000/07/07

Illinois State Representative Monique Davis’ work in the Illinois Assembly General is varied. She is the vice chair of elementary and secondary education, sits on the financial institutions committee, and the public utility committee. Davis has sponsored many bills to aid in providing better living conditions for constituents and residents of her district and beyond. Davis described in detail how she would like to be remembered and what she would like her legacy to be. She has found her life’s work to be a phenomenally important and rewarding experience.

Illinois. General Assembly--House of Representatives.
African American educators.
African American women in politics--Illinois--Chicago
African American neighborhoods--Illinois--Chicago--South Side