

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Calvin Giles

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Giles, Calvin Lamont, 1962-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Calvin Giles,
Dates:	August 9, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	2 Betacame SP videocassettes (0:51:02).
Abstract:	State representative The Honorable Calvin Giles (1962 -) represents the Chicago Westside 8th Congressional District. Giles was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 9, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_051
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Calvin Lamont Giles was born on July 10, 1962 in Chicago, Illinois. His mother, Betty, was a stewardess, and his father, Louis, was active in the Civil Rights Movement. Giles attended Resurrection Grade School and Holy Trinity High School. He became involved with local Chicago politics at an early age by working in the office of his uncle, Percy Giles, Alderman of Chicago's 37th Ward. While working for his uncle, Giles had the opportunity to work on the mayoral campaign of Harold Washington.

In 1993, Giles was appointed to the Illinois House of Representatives, replacing the deceased Robert LeFlore. He was elected to the same office the following year. He co-sponsored a bill to appropriate \$10 million toward the construction of a new library in Oak Park, Illinois. He serves as Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government and as a member of the Committees on Aging and Elementary & Secondary Education. He is also active with the Young Democrats of Illinois.

Married, Giles has received several awards, including "Legislator of the Year," presented by the 37th Ward Organization, as well as awards of appreciation from Chicago State University and the Chicago Teachers Union.

Giles was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 9, 2000.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Calvin Giles was conducted by Adele Hodge on August 9, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 2 Betacame SP videocassettes. State representative The Honorable Calvin Giles (1962 -) represents the Chicago Westside 8th Congressional District.

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:

Giles, Calvin Lamont, 1962-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Giles, Calvin Lamont, 1962---Interviews

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

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 The Honorable Calvin Giles, August 9, 2000. 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 Calvin Giles, Section A2000_051_001_001, TRT: 0:28:13 ?

Calvin Giles was born on July 10, 1962 in Chicago, Illinois, the oldest child of Betty and Louis Giles. He was raised by his grandmother intermittently for ten years in Arkansas, because his mother traveled frequently for work. His parents did not marry until Giles was older, and he did not develop a closer relationship with his father until adulthood. Giles describes early childhood memories in Chicago and shares his interests as a young man. His father was active in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s; his uncle was Alderman Percy Giles of the 37th Ward in Chicago and the director of a community organization, the West Side Business Improvement Organization. Along with his uncle, Giles credits Mayor Harold Washington as helping shape his political philosophy and career.

Giles campaigned for Washington in 1983 and 1987, and Washington encouraged Giles to consider public service.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Calvin Giles, Section A2000_051_001_002,
TRT: 0:22:49 ?

Calvin Giles talks about his political influences, which includes his family's political activism in the Civil Rights Movement, and the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He then talks about his mentors in the Illinois General Assembly, including former Illinois Representatives Paul Williams and Arthur Turner. Giles speaks about his goals for his West Side community of Chicago and his desire to educate young people on the political process. Lastly, Giles describes his hopes for the African American community and his West Side of Chicago community.

African American parents--Political activism.

African American leadership--Illinois--Chicago.

Vocational guidance.

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

African Americans--Mentoring.