

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Floyd Griffin

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Griffin, Floyd 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin,
Dates:	March 20, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:31:35).
Abstract:	Colonel, mayor, and state senator The Honorable Floyd Griffin (1944 -) was the first African American mayor of Milledgeville, Georgia as well as a former Georgia State Senator. Griffin also served twenty-three years in the military as a helicopter pilot and flight instructor in Vietnam, commander at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and at the Pentagon. He also taught military science at Wake Forest University. Griffin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 20, 2002, in Milledgeville, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_030
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Floyd Griffin, retired United States Army Colonel, former Georgia State Senator and current Mayor of Milledgeville, Georgia was born May 24, 1944, in Milledgeville. Griffin holds an A. S. degree in funeral service from Grupton Jones College, a B. S. in building construction from Tuskegee Institute and a Masters degree in contract procurement and management from the Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Griffin's twenty-three-year career in the military began in 1967 when Griffin served as a helicopter pilot and flight instructor in Vietnam. He served a tour of duty in Germany also where he was a logistics officer, battalion chief, and director of engineering and housing. From 1984 to 1986, Griffin commanded an engineering battalion at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and from 1986 to 1990, he was assigned to the Pentagon. Retiring from the military as a colonel in 1990, Griffin taught military science at Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University, where he also was the offensive backfield coach for a football team that enjoyed two undefeated seasons and won back-to-back championships.

In 1994, running as a Democrat, Griffin was elected State Senator from the 25th Senatorial District of Georgia and was reelected in 1996. He sacrificed his Senate seat in 1998 to run for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, but lost. Griffin tried again for his old Senate seat in 2000, and was narrowly defeated by the incumbent in the primary election. Not discouraged, Griffin ran for Mayor of Milledgeville, his hometown and won in 2001. An accomplished businessman, Griffin is vice president of Slater Funeral Home in Milledgeville, a Griffin family owned business.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 20, 2002, in Milledgeville, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Colonel, mayor, and state senator The Honorable Floyd Griffin (1944 -) was the first African American mayor of Milledgeville, Georgia as well as a former Georgia State Senator. Griffin also served twenty-three years in the military as a helicopter pilot and flight instructor in Vietnam, commander at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and at the Pentagon. He also taught military science at Wake Forest University.

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:

Griffin, Floyd 1944-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Griffin, Floyd 1944---Interviews

United States. Army--Officers--Interviews,

African American mayors--Georgia--Milledgeville--Interviews,

African American legislators--Georgia--Interviews,

African American politicians--Georgia--Interviews,

Discrimination--Georgia--Milledgeville,

Racism--Georgia--Milledgeville,

African Americans--Georgia--Social life and customs,

Tuskegee Institute,

Civil rights movements--Alabama.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Wake Forest University--Faculty--Interviews.

Winston-Salem State University--Faculty--Interviews.

Pentagon (Va.).

United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Elections--United States--Georgia.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United States. Army.

Georgia. General Assembly. Senate.

Milledgeville (Ga.)

Occupations:

Colonel

State Senator

Mayor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers|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 Floyd Griffin, March 20, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/7/2022 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 Floyd Griffin, Section A2002_030_001_001, TRT: 0:29:46 2002/03/20

Retired Army officer and politician Floyd L. Griffin, Jr. talks about his family background and recalls growing up in Milledgeville, Georgia, during the 1940s and 1950s. He talks about experiencing segregation and discrimination in public accommodations and schools and racism in encounters with whites. Griffin describes in detail a black community in which poverty was common but so was mutual aid; he fondly recalls community events such as church homecomings.

United States. Army--Officers--Interviews.

African American mayors--Georgia--Milledgeville--Interviews.

African American legislators--Georgia--Interviews.

African American politicians--Georgia--Interviews.
Discrimination--Georgia--Milledgeville.
Racism--Georgia--Milledgeville.
African Americans--Georgia--Social life and customs.
Tuskegee Institute.
Civil rights movements--Alabama.
Vietnam War, 1961-1975.
Wake Forest University--Faculty--Interviews.
Winston-Salem State University--Faculty--Interviews.
Pentagon (Va.).
United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.
Elections--United States--Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin, Section A2002_030_001_002,
TRT: 0:30:21 2002/03/20

Floyd L. Griffin, Jr. talks about his school experiences growing up in Milledgeville, Georgia, and his years as a student at Tuskegee Institute. In addition to his academic work and participation in ROTC, Griffin was active in the civil rights movement and he discusses programs such as the Tuskegee Institute Community Education Project and the experience of having white students from northern schools working as summer volunteers alongside black students in impoverished Alabama communities.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin, Section A2002_030_001_003,
TRT: 0:31:03 2002/03/20

Floyd L. Griffin looks back over his twenty-two years as an officer in the U.S. Army, including combat service in Vietnam, jobs at the Pentagon, with ROTC programs at Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University, as chief of branch of the Corps of Engineers, and his last assignment, heading a billion-dollar construction program with projects in many countries.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin, Section A2002_030_001_004,
TRT: 0:29:45 2002/03/20

Floyd L. Griffin talks about his retirement from the military in 1990 and his subsequent political career. He talks about his successful campaign and his tenure as a Georgia State Senator. He then discusses his time as mayor of his hometown, Milledgeville, Georgia. Griffin touches on the history of Milledgeville, known as the antebellum capital of Georgia, and explains the key issues he addressed as mayor.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Floyd Griffin, Section A2002_030_001_005,
TRT: 0:30:40 2002/03/20

Floyd L. Griffin discusses the latter stages of his career, including an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor of Georgia, his family's funeral home business, his hopes for the black community, and his legacy.