

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard Saffold

PERSON

Saffold, Howard, 1941-

Alternative Names: Howard Saffold;

Life Dates: January 26, 1941-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Criminal Justice Activist; Police Officer; Nonprofit Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Reformer Howard Saffold, a former police officer who has dedicated his life to correcting wrongs in the criminal justice system, was born on January 26, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois to Eva and DeWitt Saffold. Saffold held odd jobs while attending Farragut High School. Upon graduation in 1959, he joined the U.S. Army. He married Carol Randall Saffold in 1960 and completed his military service in 1962. Saffold worked as an expeditor for the regional office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs before the Chicago Police Department hired him as a beat officer in 1965.

As a police officer, Saffold faced discrimination and witnessed police brutality, causing him to contemplate resigning. When the Afro-American Police League was founded in 1968 by Renault Robinson, he immediately joined, recruited others and eventually served as the League's president. When a 1976 court decision forced the Chicago Police Department to change its discriminatory hiring and promotional practices, membership soared. In 1978, Saffold co-founded the National Black Police Association, serving as its president as well. In 1979, he co-founded Positive Anti-Crime Thrust with fellow Afro-American Police League leader Renault Robinson; promoting cooperation between police and the communities they serve.

When Harold Washington unsuccessfully ran for mayor of the City of Chicago in 1977, Saffold provided security on a volunteer basis. When Washington ran again and won in 1983, one of Mayor Washington's first official acts was to name Saffold as chief of executive security, making Saffold responsible for selecting, training and assigning personnel. Saffold served in the same capacity for Mayor Eugene Sawyer after Mayor Washington's untimely death.

In 1991, Saffold retired from the Chicago Police Department and resurrected the

Positive Anti-Crime Thrust. As CEO, he attempts to stem the flow of young black men into the prison system.

Saffold holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Chicago State University and an M.A. in urban studies from Northeastern Illinois University. He was honored by the Midwest Community Council in 1988, the Peoria Afro-American Police League in 1993 and the South Austin Coalition in 1994. He consults community organizing initiatives and community-based organizations, including prison ministries and public schools.

Related Entries

Farragut Career Academy Hs [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Lincoln Park High School [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Chicago State University [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

diploma

Chicago State University [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Northeastern Illinois University [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Chicago State University [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

A-1 Secretarial Service (Chicago) [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1963 to 1964]

Chicago Transit Authority [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1964 to 1965]

Chicago Police Department [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1965 to 1991]

National Black Police Association [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Afro-American Patrolman's League [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Positive Anti-Crime Thrust [PACT] [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]