

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rogers, Joe, 1964-2013
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers,
Dates:	June 17, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:45:25).
Abstract:	Lieutenant governor and lawyer Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers (1964 - 2013) was the youngest Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in history, and served as the chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors. Rogers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 17, 2002, in Denver, Colorado. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_122
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Born in 1964, Joe Rogers grew up in Commerce, Colorado, and graduated from Adams City High School.

Rogers worked his way through Colorado State University, majoring in Business Administration, and went on to Arizona State University where he studied law. While at Arizona State, Rogers led the school to its first national championship by winning the American Bar Association Negotiation Competition, a contest involving 80 U.S. law schools.

After earning his law degree, Rogers helped provide free legal services for the poor in rural southeast Colorado as part of the Colorado Bar Association's Lend-A-Lawyer Program. Born into a family that spent eight years on welfare, Rogers went on to practice law with Davis, Graham & Stubbs, one of Colorado's top firms. He served as staff counsel for Colorado's U. S. Senator, Hank Brown, and advised on a wide range of issues related to business including telecommunications, transportation and housing. Later, in private practice, he served as general counsel to the Denver Parents Association, a conservative non-profit public policy group advocating school vouchers. On their behalf, Rogers filed a lawsuit against the Denver Board of Education.

In 1996, Rogers ran for Colorado's First Congressional District seat vacated by retiring Congresswoman Pat Schroeder (D-CO). Rogers, a black Republican, surprised skeptics by garnering 42 percent of the vote, including 50 percent of the black vote. Encouraged, Rogers broadened his appeal and ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1998. Colorado's population is overwhelmingly white-only 4 to 5 percent is African American and 13 percent is Hispanic. Rogers and gubernatorial running mate Bill Owens won by a nearly 60 percent - 40 percent margin. In 1999, Joseph B. "Joe" Rogers was sworn in as the youngest Lt. Governor in Colorado history.

Rogers served as chairman of the newly formed National Conference of Lieutenant Governors. He was a principal speaker at the 2000 GOP National Convention.

He passed away on October 7, 2013, at the age of 49.

Joe Rogers was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 17, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 17, 2002, in Denver, Colorado, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lieutenant governor and lawyer Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers (1964 - 2013) was the youngest Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in history, and served as the chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors.

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:

Rogers, Joe, 1964-2013

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rogers, Joe, 1964-2013--Interviews

Lieutenant governors--Colorado--Interviews

African American lawyers--Interviews

African American politicians--Colorado--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Davis, Graham & Stubbs

Colorado

Occupations:

Lawyer

Lieutenant Governor

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 Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, June 17, 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 2/5/2020 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 Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, Section A2002_122_001_001, TRT: 0:29:45 2002/06/17

Joseph Bernard Rogers was born on July 8, 1964, to Lola Marie Streeter and Joe Louis Rogers. His maternal grandfather, Reverend Emmett Theodore Streeter, was a pastor, politician, and civil rights activist who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rogers' father was a Vietnam Veteran and his paternal grandfather, Guy Rogers, was from Camden, Arkansas. Rogers' mother divorced his father and moved to Colorado in 1966. The family was on welfare and moved around frequently. Rogers attended many elementary schools including Hamilton Elementary, Wyatt Elementary, Central Elementary in Commerce City, and Harrington Elementary in northeast Denver. She later married John Terry who treated the children as if they

were his own and encouraged their education and success.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Civil rights activists--United States.

African American families--Colorado--social life and customs.

African American families--Nebraska--social life and customs.

African American religious leaders.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, Section
A2002_122_001_002, TRT: 0:29:14 2002/06/17

Joe Rogers describes his educational trajectory. At Adams City High School, Rogers played the trumpet, tennis, and was asked to give the commencement speech at his high school graduation. Rogers' participation in the Upward Bound program and Presidential Classroom for Young Americans trip to Washington, D.C., in 1982 influenced him to major in Business and minor in Political Science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

During college, Rogers was homecoming king his sophomore year, led a student protest against South Africa, and was selected by Business Today Magazine as one of the top 200 student business leaders in the United States. After graduating from college in 1986, Rogers attended Arizona State University Law School where he won state and national championships including the American Bar Association Negotiation Competition.

Upward Bound Program (U.S.) .

Jackson, Jesse, 1941-

Stokes, Carl.

South Africa--History--20th century.

Colorado State University--students.

Presidential Classroom for Young Americans.

Bullying in schools--United States.

Education, Secondary.

Education, Elementary.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, Section
A2002_122_001_003, TRT: 0:29:28 2002/06/17

Joe Rogers discusses his legal and political career. During law school, Rogers worked with Snell & Wilmer in Phoenix, Arizona. After graduation, he joined Davis, Graham, and Stubbs in Denver, Colorado. Rogers then became legal counsel to U.S. Senator Hank Brown and changed his political affiliation to the Republican Party. In 1996, Rogers unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. Rogers worked with 4,000 Denver parents to file a class action lawsuit claiming a denial of educational opportunities for inner-city communities of Denver. Rogers then decided to run for Lieutenant Governor where he teamed up with Governor Bill Owens. In 1999, Rogers became the youngest Lieutenant Governor in the country, the first African American elected as a Republican Lieutenant Governor, and only one of four African American Lieutenant Governors elected in the history of the United States. Rogers describes his views on the importance of African Americans being represented in the Republican party.

African American lawyers--United States.
African American politicians--Colorado.
Lieutenant governors--Colorado.
Republican Party (Colo.)

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, Section A2002_122_001_004, TRT: 0:16:58 2002/06/17

Joe Rogers describes his participation in the first African American Republican Leadership Summit where leaders discussed how to expand African American presence in the party. Rogers supports Affirmative Action in terms of providing equal access to opportunity although he does not support quotas. Rogers prefers to focus on strengthening African American families rather than reparations. Rogers wishes to be remembered as someone who opened the doors of opportunity for others.

African American lawyers--United States.
African American politicians--Colorado.
United States--Race relations--Political aspects.