Overview of the Collection

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

Creator: Stovall, Alfred, 1936-2018

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Alfred Stovall,

Dates: July 30, 2002

Bulk Dates: 2002

Physical Description: 3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:29:39).

Abstract: Association chief executive and family practitioner Dr. Alfred Stovall (1936 - 2018) is the founder and president of the Fort Wayne Black Medical-Dental Association. Stovall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 30, 2002, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2002_137

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Alfred Stovall was born on August 13, 1936 in Birmingham, Alabama. An only child, Stovall moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana with his parents when he was seven years old. His father, Franz, got a job at General Electric and his mother, Arrie, opened a beauty school and operated it for 25 years. Stovall followed his parents' wishes that he get an education. He has used his medical degree to serve Fort Wayne's predominately minority neighborhoods, improving their access to health care and giving people pride in their community.

After graduating from Central High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1953,
Stovall attended Purdue University and then Fisk University. He finished his formal education in 1966 by earning his M.D. at Howard Medical School. That year, he was drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in Vietnam. He worked as a battalion surgeon and attained the rank of Captain. He was decorated with a Bronze Star. After returning home, in 1969 he opened a private practice as a family physician.

Stovall practiced medicine in an office on the corner of Lafayette and Pontiac streets, where he bought land. He and another African American physician, Dr. Jeff H. Towles, saw the potential and need for a full-service medical facility there—patients in their area had to travel relatively far to get x-rays and physical therapy. Together, they attracted investors and secured the necessary $2.7 million funding to build the 33,000 square-foot Lafayette Medical Center on the intersection where Stovall's office was located. It opened in 1993 and contains a low-cost pediatric center, an on-site urgent care center, a laboratory and a pharmacy as well as doctors' offices to cover a range of requirements.

Dr. Stovall serves as the president of the Fort Wayne Black Medical-Dental Association, which he founded. He is also a board member of the Fort Wayne Urban League and Star Financial Bank. He has four children with his wife, real estate broker Ernestine Dees Stovall.

Dr. Stovall passed away on February 18, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Alfred Stovall was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 30, 2002, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Association chief executive and family practitioner Dr. Alfred Stovall (1936 - 2018) is the founder and president of the Fort Wayne Black Medical-Dental Association.

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:

Stovall, Alfred, 1936-2018

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Stovall, Alfred, 1936-2018--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)
Occupations:

Family Practitioner

Association Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers|CivicMakers|

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 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 Dr. Alfred Stovall, Section A2002_137_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 2002/07/30

Dr. Alfred Stovall describes his family history and childhood. His mother, Arrie Jones Stovall, was born in 1917 in Birmingham, Alabama. His mother has pictures dating back several generations to when his great-grandmother worked as a slave and had offspring as the result of racial miscegenation. His father, Franz Stovall, was born in Birmingham, Alabama to sharecroppers. Stovall remembers growing up in Ensley, an upscale black neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama, and attending an integrated Catholic kindergarten. When Stovall was seven, the family moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana where his father worked for General Electric for thirty two years. His mother also worked long hours as a beautician. Stovall attended Harmar Grade School which was an equal mix of black and white students. He then graduated from Central High School in 1953 and attended Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana for less than two years before spending several years in California and New York working at various jobs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Alfred Stovall, Section A2002_137_001_002, TRT: 0:28:45 2002/07/30

Dr. Alfred Stovall talks about his medical training, serving in the Vietnam War, and starting his own successful family practice. After returning to Indiana from California, Stovall worked three jobs in order to save money for college. Stovall attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and earned his M.D. degree at Howard University College of Medicine in 1966. While completing his internship at Pontiac General Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan, he was drafted into the U.S. Army to
serve in the Vietnam War. For ten months, he worked as a battalion surgeon, attained the rank of Captain, and was decorated with a Bronze Star. He served another year at Fort Ord in Monterey, California. After returning to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1969, he opened a private practice as a family physician. Stovall and another African American physician, Dr. Jeff H. Towles, secured the necessary $2.7 million funding to build the Lafayette Medical Center which opened in 1993.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Alfred Stovall, Section A2002_137_001_003, TRT: 0:30:54 2002/07/30

Dr. Alfred Stovall describes building the Lafayette Medical Center. He and another African American physician, Dr. Jeff H. Towles, saw the need for a full-service medical facility to treat patients in their area, and they attracted investors to secure the necessary $2.7 million in funding. The medical center opened in 1993 and contains an affordable pediatric center, an on-site urgent care center, a laboratory and a pharmacy as well as doctors' offices. Stovall treated Vernon Jordan’s gunshot wound when he was shot in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1980. Stovall also recalls happier moments in his practice including delivering over 2000 babies during his career. Stovall talks about his involvement in the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association. Stovall discusses the biggest medical problems facing African Americans and the need for better health care access in the United States. Stovall reflects upon his legacy and concludes by narrating his photographs.