

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Renee J. Amooore

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Amooore, Renee J., 1953-2020
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 10, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:14:56).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Chief executive officer, healthcare executive, and nurse Renee J. Amooore (1953 - 2020) is a home health care entrepreneur and has served as the vice chair of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania. Amooore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 10, 2002, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_179
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Health care advocate Renee J. Amooore was born on January 24, 1953 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania to Juanita Ramsey, a domestic worker and nurse, and John Ramsey, a school bus driver. Amooore has earned a reputation for her innovative approaches to treating mental illness and other disorders.

Amooore (then Ramsey) was trained at the Harlem School of Nursing and served as head emergency room nurse at New York's Harlem Hospital. While working as evening and night program coordinator at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, Amooore earned a bachelor's degree at Antioch College in 1979. Antioch University granted her a master's degree in administration in 1982. By that time, Amooore was already working as a supervisor of Wordsworth Academy's hospital program in Pennsylvania. In 1986, the Philadelphia Center for Developmental Services, Inc. hired her as a program director. Growth Horizons, Inc., an organization running group homes for people with mental illness and substance abuse problems, employed Amooore in 1988 where she worked until 1996, becoming its vice president and chief operating officer.

In 1995, Renee Amooore founded a health care management and consulting firm called the Amooore Group in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The company includes Amooore Health Systems, Inc., a local service provider and health care consultant; 521 Management Group, Inc., a public relations and governmental liaison business; and Ramsey Educational and Development Institute, Inc., which provides programs focusing on job creation and workplace diversity. Amooore's political connections serve her well. In 1992, she was elected to Pennsylvania's Republican State Committee and became the deputy chair in 1996.

Amooore has taught as an adjunct professor at Drexel University, Antioch University and Lincoln University. Her civic commitments include membership in the NAACP, the American Legion Auxiliary and the African American Museum of Philadelphia's Advisory Board. She serves as a deacon at Saints Memorial Baptist Church and a guest host on a WHAT-AM community talk show. Honors Amooore has received include the Artemis Award from the

Euro-American Women's Council in Greece, the Evelyn McPhail Award for Republican Activist of the Year, the NAACP Award for Community Services in Education and the Madam C.J. Walker Award from the Coalition of 100 Black Women. She and her husband, Joseph Amooore, have one daughter, Cherie.

Renee J. Amooore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 10, 2002.

Amooore passed away on May, 4, 2020.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Renee J. Amooore was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 10, 2002, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Chief executive officer, healthcare executive, and nurse Renee J. Amooore (1953 - 2020) is a home health care entrepreneur and has served as the vice chair of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Amooore, Renee J., 1953-2020

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Amoore, Renee J., 1953-2020--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Healthcare Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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## 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 Renee J. Amoore, September 10, 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 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore, Section A2002\_179\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:55 ?

Renee Amooore was born on January 24, 1953 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania to Juanita and John Ramsey. Her mother's family was originally from West Palm Beach, Florida. Her father's parents migrated to Pennsylvania from Virginia where the Ramseys owned and operated a school. For most of Amooore's life, her mother was a domestic worker and politically active in the Republican Party. Amooore's father held several jobs to support the family. He had his own landscaping business and also worked as a milk man, trash collector, and school bus driver. Neither of Amooore's parents were educated beyond the eighth grade. Amooore recalls several experiences of racial discrimination. In middle school, her reaction to a teacher's racism led to reforms within the school. Amooore graduated from Haverford High School in 1971. In high school, she was the lead singer of a band that did covers of songs by Aretha Franklin and Dionne Warwick. Many of Amooore's mentors during her high school years were from Saints Memorial Baptist Church in Bryn Mawr. Amooore also describes her childhood home, the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood, and gang activity.

Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore, Section A2002\_179\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:35 ?

Renee Amooore enrolled at Harlem Hospital School of Nursing in 1971. Amooore recalls the culture shock she experienced upon arriving in Harlem, New York from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Amooore came to love Harlem, a place that taught her about the black experience. In Harlem, she frequented cultural institutions like the Schomburg Center, Sylvia's Restaurant, and the Apollo Theater where she saw Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, and The Four Tops. At Harlem Hospital, Amooore received intensive training as a nurse across various medical units; her favorite was the emergency room. Her interactions with patients taught Amooore about discipline. Amooore remembers Ms. Renee Johnson, a teacher at Harlem Hospital who influenced Amooore's specialty in psychiatric nursing. Upon graduation in 1974, Amooore began working in the South Bronx as a comprehensive health care nurse. She chronicles her career as a nurse, from Harlem Hospital to the founding of Amooore Health Systems in 1995. In 1996, she added 521 Management Group, and in 1999, the Ramsey Educational Development Institute (REDI). The three arms were consolidated under Amooore Group, Inc.

Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore, Section A2002\_179\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Renee Amooore describes the three arms of her company, Amooore Group, Inc.: Amooore Health Systems, 521 Management Group, and Ramsey Educational Development Institute (REDI). Government contracts and expansion into South Africa have contributed to the company's rapid growth. Amooore's work in South Africa includes lobbying as well as preventative health care like the use of portable mammograms. Amooore describes her expanding political role from local to state to national levels. In 1990, her daughter's experience of racial discrimination catalyzed Amooore's decision to run for the school board director of Upper Merion Township in Pennsylvania. Her bid was successful. While serving on the school board, Amooore also ran successfully for the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania. She was then selected to handle the roll call for the 2000 Republican National Convention. She describes other black Republicans including HistoryMaker General Colin L. Powell, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, and Condoleeza Rice.

Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore, Section A2002\_179\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:01 ?

Renee Amooore talks about politicians President Bill Clinton, Philadelphia Mayor John Street, and former Director of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge.

Amooore worked to increase the black voter turnout on Tom Ridge's gubernatorial campaign. Amooore describes her hopes and concerns for the African American. She reflects upon her mother's pride, legacy, and how she would like to be remembered. Amooore also talks about running for public office and the importance of reparations. She narrates her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Renee J. Amooore, Section A2002\_179\_001\_005, TRT: 0:14:35 ?

Renee Amooore narrates her photographs.