

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brooks, Tyrone
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks,
Dates:	May 6, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	9 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:19:00).
Abstract:	State representative The Honorable Tyrone Brooks (1945 -) is a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, and led the push to remove Confederate symbols from the Georgia state flag. Brooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 6, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_099
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks was born October 10, 1945, in Warrenton, Georgia. Brooks attended public school in Warrenton, and later went to high school in Keyville, Georgia.

Brooks became active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the age of fifteen as a volunteer, and by 1967 he was a full-time employee. While there he met such influential leaders as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Joseph Lowery; and the Reverend Ralph David Abernathy. Brooks served in both local and national positions with the SCLC. He was arrested in 1976 in Washington, D.C., while protesting outside the South African Embassy. All told, he has been arrested more than sixty-five times for his civil rights activism. In 1980, Brooks was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he continues to serve. He is active on a number of committees, and led the push to remove Confederate symbols from the Georgia state flag.

Brooks is also president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, and is a member of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. He is still highly involved in the civil rights movement, working to eradicate racism, sexism, illiteracy and injustice.

Brooks received his first honorary degree from the John Marshall School of Law in 2001 as a result of his successful campaigning to change the state flag. He has also been awarded with a Public Servant Award from the Atlanta City Council, been inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame, and named one of the 50 Most Influential Men in Georgia by the Georgia Coalition of Black Women. Brooks and his wife, Mary, live in Atlanta.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 6,

2003, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 9 Betacame SP videocassettes. State representative The Honorable Tyrone Brooks (1945 -) is a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, and led the push to remove Confederate symbols from the Georgia state flag.

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:

Brooks, Tyrone

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brooks, Tyrone--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Georgia. General Assembly. House of Representatives.

Occupations:

State Representative

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 The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, May 6, 2003. 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 Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_001, TRT: 0:29:30 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks shares interesting details of his family history, from his parents' and grandparents' backgrounds from the days of slavery. Of note, Brooks details the privilege his grandmother's biracial heritage conferred upon him and the family during the height of Jim Crow in Georgia. Brooks also discusses his parents' interesting courtship.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_002, TRT: 0:30:20 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks shares several descriptive anecdotes of his childhood in the rural South, sharing stories of racism and segregation that helped shape his social and political views. Brooks describes his schooling, remembering influential teachers and describing his favorite activities. Brooks also recounts his early involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_003, TRT: 0:30:05 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks discusses his education as a teen member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and how he learned the methodology of nonviolent protest. He details pivotal figures like Walter Fauntroy and Hosea Williams, among others, who were vital to the success of the Civil Rights Movement. Brooks also describes the influence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on SCLC and the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_004, TRT: 0:29:45 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks details confrontations and civil rights demonstrations during his early years with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Brooks remembers slain civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo and activist Carl Farris and their sacrifices for the Civil Rights Movement. He also recounts his involvement with several protests in Georgia and how average citizens stood behind and supported the Movement. Brooks also explains strategies he used to recruit people for civil rights demonstrations.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_005, TRT: 0:29:15 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks shares the story of Sheriff Junior Odom who begged his forgiveness for illegally imprisoning him after a civil rights demonstration in Georgia. Brooks expounds on the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the economic development of the South, stressing that success was achieved due to nonviolent methods. Brooks recalls his last meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and praises him as a strategist. He also describes his work with the Poor People's Campaign.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_006, TRT: 0:29:30 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks tells of being jailed during the Resurrection City march as part of the Poor People's Campaign and explains his work with Ralph Abernathy and Hosea Williams. Brooks describes the maturation of the Civil Rights Movement as it expanded beyond the borders of the U.S. and focused on ending apartheid in South Africa. He speaks at length about the changes brought on by the election of Jimmy Carter as governor of Georgia and as President of the United States. Brooks also points out several areas where Carter faltered in domestic policy.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_007, TRT: 0:29:40 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks discusses the state of Georgia politics from his first election in 1980 until today. He details the legislation he successfully introduced which was passed into law, including the passage of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday bill and his fight to change the Georgia state flag. Brooks also praises the revolutionary Hosea Williams in spite of their political differences.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_008,

TRT: 0:30:15 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks details at length his struggle to change the Georgia state flag from the 1956 Confederate battle flag to its pre-1956 version. He describes Denmark Groover's role in convincing then-Governor Roy Barnes, various state legislators and Georgia residents to effect this change. Brooks also discusses his concerns for the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Tyrone Brooks, Section A2003_099_001_009,
TRT: 0:20:40 2003/05/06

Georgia State Representative Tyrone Brooks considers his legacy and narrates his personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape.