Overview of the Collection

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

Creator: Walker, Kenneth, 1930-2019

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Kenneth Walker,

Dates: August 13, 2003

Bulk Dates: 2003

Physical Description: 5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:29).

Abstract: Education professor and basketball referee Kenneth Walker (1930 - 2019) is a collegiate basketball referee and educator who has worked to improve urban education in Rhode Island. Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 13, 2003, in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2003_186

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and basketball referee Kenneth R. Walker, Sr. has devoted his career to serving his home state of Rhode Island. Born in East Providence on December 19, 1930, to Lillian and Frank Walker, Walker has dedicated his professional life to improving urban education.

Walker attended Providence College, where he received a B.A. in 1957. Upon graduating, he began teaching English and social studies for the East Providence School District while also serving as a guidance counselor. He earned an M.Ed. from Rhode Island College in 1962, where he worked part time from 1967 to 1969
as the assistant director of Project Upward Bound, a federally supported program for economically and educationally disadvantaged youth. Walker was promoted to assistant principal at Central Jr. High School before accepting a position as assistant professor of education at Rhode Island College in 1970. He remained on the education faculty at Rhode Island College until 1993, rising to the rank of full professor in 1989. Walker also earned a Ph.D. in education from Boston University.

During his tenure at Rhode Island College, Walker directed the Teacher Corps, a project of the college and the Pawtucket School Department aimed at raising the quality of education for low-income students. Walker also served as director of urban education at the university. In 1963, Walker became a basketball referee and officiated Division I games in the East Coast, Big East and Atlantic 10 athletic conferences. He traveled with a team of Big East all-stars to Angola in 1982. Walker also served on the Rhode Island Board of Parole.

In 1998, Walker joined Johnson & Wales University as an associate professor. He was a member of several educators and basketball referee organizations and served as president of the Big Brothers of Rhode Island. Walker was honored several times for his service to youth and education, and was the 1980 recipient of the NAACP Freedom Fund Award in Education. He married Gail B. Smith in 1955, and had three children.

Walker passed away on January 30, 2019.

Kenneth Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 13, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Kenneth Walker was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 13, 2003, in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education professor and basketball referee Kenneth Walker (1930 - 2019) is a collegiate basketball referee and educator who has worked to improve urban education in Rhode Island.

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:**

- Walker, Kenneth, 1930-2019
- Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)
- Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

- African Americans--Interviews
- Walker, Kenneth, 1930-2019--Interviews

**Organizations:**
HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Education Professor

Basketball Referee

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|SportsMakers

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 Kenneth Walker, Section A2003_186_001_001, TRT: 0:31:14 2003/08/13

Video Oral History Interview with Kenneth Walker, Section A2003_186_001_002, TRT: 0:30:47 2003/08/13

Video Oral History Interview with Kenneth Walker, Section A2003_186_001_003, TRT: 0:30:41 2003/08/13


Video Oral History Interview with Kenneth Walker, Section A2003_186_001_005, TRT: 0:25:34 2003/08/13