

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.

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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>	Bishop, Sanford, Jr., 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 9, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:10:58).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Politician The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr. (1947 - ) was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and remained there until 1990. Bishop then served a two-year term in the Georgia Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992. Bishop was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 9, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_242
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Politician Sanford Bishop, Jr., was born February 4, 1947, in Mobile, Alabama. His father, Sanford Bishop, Sr., was the first president of Bishop State Community College and his mother, Minnie, was a librarian. After completing high school, Bishop attended Morehouse College, earning a B.A. in 1968, and receiving a J.D. from Emory University in 1971. That same year he was given an honorable discharge from the Army's Advanced Reserve Officers Training School.

After earning his law degree, Bishop moved to Columbus, Georgia, in 1972, where he established the law firm of Bishop and Buckner. Five years later, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and remained there until 1990. Bishop then served a two-year term in the Georgia Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, where he is currently serving his sixth term. Bishop has served on the House Intelligence Committee, the Agriculture Committee and is a permanent member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Currently he serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is the chairman of the Democratic House Task Force on Homeland Security. Bishop has worked hard to promote agriculture, as well as to increase job opportunities and promote foreign trade.

Bishop is active on several committees, including the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Security Caucus and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has also received numerous awards, including the Spirit of Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the Man of the Year Award from the Men's Progressive Club of Columbus, Georgia; and the Friend of the Children Award from the Child Advocacy Coalition. As an Eagle Scout, he has also been honored by the Boy Scouts of America for his distinguished career achievement. Bishop and his wife, Vivian, live in Albany, Georgia. They have one daughter.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 9, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Politician The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr. (1947 - ) was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and remained there until 1990. Bishop then served a two-year term in the Georgia Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992.

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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:

Bishop, Sanford, Jr., 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bishop, Sanford, Jr., 1947- --Interviews

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African American legislators--Georgia--Interviews

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African American politicians--Georgia--Interviews

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African American families--Southern States

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African Americans--Genealogy

---

African Americans--Relations with Jews

---

Segregation--Alabama--Mobile

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Racism--Alabama--Mobile

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Boy Scouts--Alabama

---

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination

---

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.)

---

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

---

Elections--United States--Georgia

---

United States. Congress. House

---

Georgia--Politics and government

---

Sons of Confederate Veterans (Organization)

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King C. B. (Chevene Bowers), 1923-1988

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Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-

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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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Georgia

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## **Occupations:**

Politician

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

## 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 Sanford Bishop, Jr., September 9, 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 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 The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Section  
A2003\_242\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Sanford Bishop talks about his mother's family's North Carolina origins and then recalls one of the many stories she told him about her childhood. Bishop then talks about his father's origins and the unique relationship his family had with the Blumenfelds, the family of a local Jewish businessman in Starkville, Mississippi. Sanford Bishop then details the names and careers of his father's extended family, and shares a story about a 'colorful' uncle who required the services of famed attorney Clarence Darrow. Lastly, Bishop recalls his formal introduction to the Blumenfelds as a child

African American legislators--Georgia--Interviews.

African American politicians--Georgia--Interviews.

African American families--Southern States.

African Americans--Genealogy.

African Americans--Relations with Jews.

Segregation--Alabama--Mobile.

Racism--Alabama--Mobile.

Boy Scouts--Alabama.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination.

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Elections--United States--Georgia.

United States. Congress. House.

Georgia--Politics and government.

Sons of Confederate Veterans (Organization).

King C. B. (Chevene Bowers), 1923-1988.

Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Section  
A2003\_242\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:18 ?

Sanford Bishop recalls an early childhood memory of an encounter with racism, and shares a story about how his family, living in segregated housing, worked with others to protect their neighborhood from Ku Klux Klan incidents. Bishop then recalls the black Mardi Gras parade and his desire to become a Boy Scout after seeing them assisting the police with traffic control during the celebration. Bishop details his activities in the Boy Scouts in the 1950s and 1960s, his schooling and the teachers who influenced him as a child. He then gives his recollection of 1963 and where he was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Lastly, Sanford Bishop shares a story from the 1950s when his father took action and spoke up to a white man attempting to leave the scene of an accident.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Section  
A2003\_242\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Sanford Bishop briefly talks about the difficulty of assembling a black Boy Scout troop in the segregated South. Bishop then returns to the story about the consequences from his father's actions in the 1950s against a white man attempting to leave the scene of an accident. He then details his activities in the Boy Scouts in the 1960s, and his student activities and honors during junior high school and high school. He then recalls the influence his father had on his decision to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and the civil rights activists he met while there. Sanford Bishop talks about his early career as a lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and recalls his role models that inspired him to become civically active and run for political office. Lastly, Bishop details his political campaign and the constituency in his Congressional district.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Section  
A2003\_242\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Sanford Bishop talks about his experience in the military and shares stories from his early law career. He then talks about his political campaign and reflects on his interpretation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream in relation to his becoming the first black U.S. Congressman from south Georgia. Bishop recalls the compromises he had to make for his political constituency, but maintains that he has kept his basic core values. He then talks about having to address the controversy surrounding the altering of the Georgia state flag, and shares a story about his attendance at the Sons of Confederate Veterans convention. Lastly, Bishop reflects on what his legacy might be and recalls his accomplishment in having the new Federal courthouse in Albany, Georgia named after black Civil

Rights attorney, Chevene Bowers King.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Section  
A2003\_242\_001\_005, TRT: 0:11:00 ?

Sanford Bishop talks about how far society has come in relation to the telling of black history, and recalls his political heroes, both black and white. Bishop then talks about his disappointment with the activities of the current Presidential administration. He finally talks about how he would like to be remembered.