

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Marsh, Henry L., III, 1933-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III,
Dates:	November 18, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:27:45).
Abstract:	Civil rights lawyer The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III (1933 -) was Richmond, Virginia's first African American mayor. Marsh was later elected as a United States Senator, is the co-founder of the Richmond Renaissance, and past president of the National Black Caucus of Elected Officials. Marsh was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 18, 2003, in Richmond, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_277
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights attorney Henry L. Marsh III was born December 10, 1933, in Richmond, Virginia. He attended Moonfield and George Mason Elementary Schools and graduated with honors from Maggie L. Walker High School in 1952. Earning a B.A. in sociology from Virginia Union University in 1956, he went on to obtain an L.L.B. from Howard University Law School in 1959.

Marsh joined with Samuel L. Tucker to form the law firm of Tucker & Marsh in 1961. They were joined by Oliver Hill in 1965 to form Hill, Tucker & Marsh. He immediately joined the fight against the “massive resistance” that was Virginia’s announced policy toward the de-segregation actions called for in the *Brown v. The Board of Education* decision of 1954. His counsel in *Gravelly v. Robb* resulted in single member districts for the General Assembly of Virginia. After having served on the Richmond City Council since 1966, Marsh won the mayor’s seat in 1977, the first black mayor in the city’s history. In 1981, he hosted the National Conference on the Black Agenda, which attracted 1,500 African American state, local and federal officials. In 1991, Marsh was elected Senator from the 16th Senate District, now serving his third term.

Marsh is co-founder of the Richmond Renaissance and the Metropolitan Economic Development Council, and a past president of the National Black Caucus of Elected Officials and a member of the board of directors of the National League of Cities. Marsh has also recently formed the Support Committee for Excellence in the Public Schools. In addition, he established the New Millenium Leadership Institute, is founder of the Unity Day Celebration Committee, and hosts Richmond’s Annual Juneteenth Celebration. He also has served as chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission.

The recipient of numerous awards, Marsh lives in Richmond with his wife, Diane. He has three children, four

grandsons and two granddaughters.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 18, 2003, in Richmond, Virginia, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights lawyer The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III (1933 -) was Richmond, Virginia's first African American mayor. Marsh was later elected as a United States Senator, is the co-founder of the Richmond Renaissance, and past president of the National Black Caucus of Elected Officials.

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:

Marsh, Henry L., III, 1933-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Marsh, Henry L., III, 1933- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 Henry L. Marsh, III, November 18, 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).

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 Henry L. Marsh, III, Section
A2003_277_001_001, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III was born on December 10, 1933 in Richmond, Virginia to Lucy Phillips Marsh and Henry L. Marsh II. His mother died when he was five years old, and Marsh and his siblings were raised by an

aunt and uncle in Carlton, Virginia. The Marsh children were reunited with their father in Richmond, Virginia in 1945. Marsh describes the sights, sounds, and smells of his childhood in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and in rural North Carolina. Marsh graduated from Maggie L. Walker High School in Richmond in 1952. He then attended Virginia Union University in Richmond, graduating with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1956. Marsh worked throughout his grade school and college education. He talks about his decision to practice law, which was inspired by Spottswood Robinson and HistoryMaker Oliver Hill, and his work ethic as a student at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. Marsh would go on to work toward the desegregation of public schools in Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Section
A2003_277_001_002, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III talks about his experiences at Howard University School of Law in Washington D.C., and as a civil rights lawyer in the 1960s and 1970s. Marsh enrolled in law school in 1956. At a Virginia General Assembly meeting in 1959, Marsh gave a speech in opposition of segregation. The speech left an impression on HistoryMaker Oliver W. Hill, who offered Marsh a job after law school. After graduating in 1959, Marsh worked for the federal labor department before joining Oliver Hill's law firm with Samuel Wilbert Tucker in 1961. The three would form Hill, Tucker & Marsh. Marsh describes Hill's legacy in the Virginia State Senate. He talks about Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and the influence of the Voting Rights Act of 1964 in the State of Virginia. Marsh also describes his involvement in the desegregation of Virginia public schools and what influenced his decision to run for political office. He ran for city council in 1966, and was elected Mayor of Richmond in 1977.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Section
A2003_277_001_003, TRT: 0:27:20 ?

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III his election as Mayor of Richmond, Virginia in 1977. He was the first African American elected mayor by the Richmond City Council. He talks about his mayoral record, including the organization of over 1500 black elected officials for the "National Conference on the Black Agenda in the 80's" in 1981. Marsh selected HistoryMaker and former mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, Andrew Young as the conference's keynote speaker. Marsh also talks about establishing the Richmond Renaissance, an economic partnership between Richmond's black and white communities, and the Metropolitan Economic Development Council. He talks about the history of civil rights in Richmond, and his work in economic, leadership and education programming development. Marsh was elected president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, and elected to the Virginia State Senate in 1991. He considers his legacy, his future plans, what he might have done differently, and how he would like to be remembered.