

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Julian Manly Earls

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Earls, Julian Manly, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Julian Manly Earls,
Dates:	January 10, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:23:00).
Abstract:	Federal government administrator and physicist Julian Manly Earls (1942 -) worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for over forty years, and has served as the director of the NASA's Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio. Earls was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 10, 2005, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_006
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Physicist and federal government administrator Julian Manly Earls was born on November 22, 1942 in Portsmouth, Virginia to James and Ida Deberry Earls. He graduated from Crestwood High School in Chesapeake, Virginia in 1960 and went on to earn his B.S. degree in physics from Norfolk State University in 1964. Upon the advice of his mentor, Dr. Roy A. Woods, Earls attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry to obtain his M.S. degree in radiation biology in 1965. Earls then moved to Cleveland to work at NASA for six years at the Lewis Research Center. NASA sponsored Earls to obtain his Ph.D. degree in radiation physics at the University of Michigan in 1973. Also, while working at NASA, he graduated from the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development in 1978.

Working at NASA for over forty years, Earls became NASA's first black section head, first black office chief, first black division chief, first black deputy director, and NASA's second black center director. Earls was hired as the director of the Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio in 2003. As center director, Earls has been responsible for research, technology and systems development programs in aeronautical propulsion, space propulsion, space power, space communications, and microgravity sciences. He manages an annual budget and oversees all employees and contractors. Earls has written several publications for technical and educational journals. He also wrote NASA's first health physics guides. On two occasions, he has been awarded NASA medals for exceptional achievement and outstanding leadership and has received the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive for career Senior Executive Service (SES) members.

Earls has been awarded honorary degrees by Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in Queens, New York, Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. He has been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Technical Association, the National Society of Black Engineers, the National Society of Black Physicists, the Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology, the

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. An avid runner, he has run at least twenty-five marathons and was given the honor of being a torchbearer for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Earls and his wife, Zenobia, reside in Beachwood, Ohio. They have two sons, Gregory and Julian, Jr., and one granddaughter, Madisyn Chandler.

Julian Earls was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 10, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Julian Manly Earls was conducted by Regennia Williams on January 10, 2005, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Federal government administrator and physicist Julian Manly Earls (1942 -) worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for over forty years, and has served as the director of the NASA's Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio.

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:

Earls, Julian Manly, 1942-

Williams, Regennia (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Earls, Julian Manly, 1942---Interviews

Aerospace engineers--Interviews

African American scientists--Interviews

United States--Officials and employees--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

NASA Glenn Research Center

Occupations:

Physicist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Julian Manly Earls, January 10, 2005. 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 Julian Manly Earls, Section A2005_006_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10
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Julian Manly Earls talks about his family. Ida Deberry Earls, his mother, was born in Margaretville, North Carolina in 1924. She was a domestic worker and seamstress. His father, James Earls, was born in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina in 1922, and he worked on the railroad. Earls grew up in Portsmouth, Virginia with his parents, six siblings, and his maternal grandmother. Earls often visited his paternal grandparents, sharecroppers, in North Carolina. His parents and neighborhood church community created a great environment for learning. Earls skipped the first grade, and his fifth grade teacher Miss McKnight helped him fall in love with mathematics. During high school, he took part in regional and state math and science competitions against other black high schools and participated in science fairs. The first of his siblings to go to college, Earls secured financial support from his older siblings who recognized the importance of education.

African American families--Virginia--Portsmouth.

Sharecropping--North Carolina.

African Americans--Education--Virginia--Portsmouth.

African American neighborhoods--Virginia--Portsmouth.

Education, Primary--Virginia--Portsmouth.

Education, Secondary--Virginia--Portsmouth.

Portsmouth (Va.).

Video Oral History Interview with Julian Manly Earls, Section A2005_006_001_002, TRT: 0:30:40
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Julian Earls talks about his college and graduate years. He attended Norfolk State University where he met his advisor and mentor, Dr. Roy Alexander Woods and graduated in 1964 with his B.S. degree in physics. He married his wife during college and they had their first son in 1964. Upon Dr. Woods advice, Earls attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry to obtain his M.S. degree in radiation biology in 1965. Earls then moved to Cleveland to work for NASA for six years at the Lewis Research Center before NASA sponsored his Ph.D. degree in radiation physics which he obtained in 1973 from University of Michigan. Through NASA, several black scientist organizations, and fraternities, Earls has encouraged youth to study and choose careers in math and science. Black mentors at NASA who supported Earls include Harold Ferguson, Glenn Zellars, Albert Antoine, Harrison Allen, and Annie Easley.

African American couples--Marriage.

Norfolk State University (Va.).

University of Rochester. School of Medicine and Dentistry.

University of Michigan. Graduate School.

African American scientists--United States.

Science--Study and teaching.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian Manly Earls, Section A2005_006_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00
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Julian Earls thinks that affirmative action corrects inequities and does not mean giving unqualified people jobs. NASA administrators worked to get the best talent for the agency regardless of race. Earls feels it is easy to see that NASA is an excellent employer of diversity at all levels. NASA generally requires a technical background and a master's degree for astronauts although teachers have been for the Astronaut Corps. It takes a year or two to train astronauts for each launch, so they are typically recruited three years before a mission. Safety is a big priority at NASA and many measures are taken to increase safety and minimize accidents. Earls' wife supported his career and education while raising their two sons and working as a public school teacher in Cleveland. Earls is concerned about funding for public schools and the lack of stable structures to support today's youth.

Affirmative action programs--United States.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

African American families--Ohio--Cleveland.

Government aid to education--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian Manly Earls, Section A2005_006_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50
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Julian Earls was surprised by Ohio's influence in the 2004 election. Earls thinks the United States has the ability to create technology to make voting easy and fair. Earls played intramural basketball and softball for NASA and in the community. When work required him to travel, he left his teams and started long-distance running. NASA encourages scientists and engineers to also be humanitarians. Part of the mission of NASA is to inspire the next generation of explorers and Dr. Willie Ray "Karimi" Mackey took that concept to the next level. Earls works to mentor employees and encourage the young people who come to NASA during the summers to pursue science careers. He considers his homes to be the Cleveland, Ohio and Portsmouth, Virginia.

Presidents--Election--2004.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mentoring in science--United States.

Humanitarians--Science--United States.

Cleveland (Ohio).

Portsmouth (Va.).

Video Oral History Interview with Julian Manly Earls, Section A2005_006_001_005, TRT: 0:24:20
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Julian Earls talks about ethics and accountability. Earls hopes that humans are not only smart enough to accomplish technological advances, like cloning, but that they also have the moral fiber to make sure that the right things are done for the right reasons. Earls would like his legacy to be that he tried to use his power and influence to help people and that he created an environment for people to grow, develop, and contribute. Being a teacher and mentor will be his greatest contribution to the African American community. Earls ends the interview by describing his photographs.

Scientists--Professional ethics

Science--Study and teaching

Mentoring in science--United States