

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maxie L. Patterson

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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>	Patterson, Maxie L., 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Maxie L. Patterson,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 9, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:30:10).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Police officer and city government administrator Maxie L. Patterson (1944 - ) served as police chief of Albion, Michigan and Windsor, Connecticut. Patterson was later appointed as the Deputy Director and City Treasurer of Houston, and was ultimately appointed as the Executive Director of Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems. Patterson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 9, 2007, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_060
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Maxie (Max) L. Patterson was born on June 12, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Myra and Harry Patterson. He was active in the science club, the marching band and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant in the ROTC. He graduated from Munford High School in 1962 and enrolled in Ferris State College, which he attended for two years. After leaving college, Patterson worked for the Ford Motor Company.

Patterson enlisted in the United States Army in 1967 and was assigned to counterintelligence. He is a decorated Vietnam War veteran and is retired from the United States Army Reserve with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

Patterson returned to college after the military. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in public administration in 1973 and 1977 from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. While attending Michigan State University, Patterson worked for the police department. In 1976, he was offered a job as the Police Chief of Albion, Michigan. Three years later, in 1979, he became the Police Chief of Windsor, Connecticut. After seven years, Patterson was persuaded to accept a position as Assistant City Manager of Beaumont, Texas, where he also served as the city's Coordinator of the Minority Business Enterprise Program until 1989. Patterson moved to Houston, Texas in 1989 to become Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. In 1991, he was appointed as interim Director of Housing and Community Development. From July 1992 to 1995, Patterson served as the Deputy Director and City Treasurer and ultimately was appointed City Treasurer. He worked as the fiduciary of the city's three pension systems. In 1997, Patterson was hired as Executive Director of Houston's Firefighter's Retirement Fund until 2005 when he became the Executive Director of Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems.

Patterson lives in Houston, Texas with his wife Deborah. They have four children.

Patterson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 9, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Maxie L. Patterson was conducted by Denise Gines on February 9, 2007, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Police officer and city government administrator Maxie L. Patterson (1944 - ) served as police chief of Albion, Michigan and Windsor, Connecticut. Patterson was later appointed as the Deputy Director and City Treasurer of Houston, and was ultimately appointed as the Executive Director of Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems.

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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:**

Patterson, Maxie L., 1944-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Patterson, Maxie L., 1944---Interviews

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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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Houston (Tex.)

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## **Occupations:**

Police Officer

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City Government Administrator

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

CivicMakers|PoliticalMakers

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## **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 Maxie L. Patterson, February 9, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **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

## 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 Maxie L. Patterson, Section  
A2007\_060\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:10 2007/02/09

Maxie L. Patterson was born on June 12, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Myra Howard Patterson and Harry Patterson, Sr. His father moved to Detroit from Camden, Arkansas to work for the Ford Motor Company. Patterson's mother was born in Century, Florida, and lived briefly in Windsor, Canada before settling in Detroit. She was a domestic, and later became a nurse's aide in the Children's Hospital of Michigan. In Detroit, Patterson often joined his mother on trips to the J.L. Hudson Department Store. He and his father listened to Jack Benny and 'The Lone Ranger' on the radio, and watched the 'Ed Sullivan Show' on television. His father also owned a four-unit apartment building, which Patterson and his three siblings helped to maintain. Patterson grew up in an integrated community, and began his education at William T. Sampson Elementary School. When he entered the sixth grade, his family moved to a neighborhood in northwest Detroit, where he enrolled at P.J.M. Halley Elementary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxie L. Patterson, Section  
A2007\_060\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:30 2007/02/09

Maxie L. Patterson was born on June 12, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Myra Howard Patterson and Harry Patterson, Sr. His father moved to Detroit from Camden, Arkansas to work for the Ford Motor Company. Patterson's mother was born in Century, Florida, and lived briefly in Windsor,

Canada before settling in Detroit. She was a domestic, and later became a nurse's aide in the Children's Hospital of Michigan. In Detroit, Patterson often joined his mother on trips to the J.L. Hudson Department Store. He and his father listened to Jack Benny and 'The Lone Ranger' on the radio, and watched the 'Ed Sullivan Show' on television. His father also owned a four-unit apartment building, which Patterson and his three siblings helped to maintain. Patterson grew up in an integrated community, and began his education at William T. Sampson Elementary School. When he entered the sixth grade, his family moved to a neighborhood in northwest Detroit, where he enrolled at P.J.M. Halley Elementary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxie L. Patterson, Section A2007\_060\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:00 2007/02/09

Maxie L. Patterson worked with his father, Harry Patterson, Sr., at the Ford Motor Company while attending Ferris State College. He was offered a foreman position, but turned it down after watching his father's health fail. When his father died, Patterson left school, and joined the U.S. Army as a counterintelligence officer. He trained in Baltimore, Maryland, where he learned typing and interrogation techniques; and in El Paso, Texas, where he learned to speak Vietnamese. Prior to his deployment, Patterson visited Jack Sible, his Ferris State College counselor, who had joined the staff of Michigan State University. Sible encouraged Patterson to apply, and he was admitted with deferred enrollment. In Vietnam, Patterson worked on the Phoenix Program, which targeted the Vietcong's organizational infrastructure. After returning in 1970, he studied public administration at Michigan State University, and befriended university president Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. while working on the university's police force.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxie L. Patterson, Section A2007\_060\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:50 2007/02/09

Maxie L. Patterson earned his master's degree at Michigan State University in East Lansing, where he also worked in the university's police department. In 1976, he became the chief of police of Albion, Michigan, a small community where the police had a history of racial discrimination.

While in Albion, Patterson worked at a community theater to improve relations with the residents, and also joined the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. After three years, Patterson moved to Windsor, Connecticut to serve as its police chief. In 1986, Patterson was hired as the assistant city manager of Beaumont, Texas, where he also served as the interim police chief. When the city manager moved to Houston, Texas, Patterson joined him as deputy director of the city's financial administration. Then, he worked as the executive director of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund for eight years, before joining the Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems.

Video Oral History Interview with Maxie L. Patterson, Section A2007\_060\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:40 2007/02/09

Maxie L. Patterson managed the pension funds for the City of Houston, Texas. In the late 1990s, he decided not to invest in the Enron Corporation, which collapsed a few years later. Patterson went on to become the executive director of the Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems, where he organized workshops and lobbied for legislation. Patterson was active in the community of Houston, where he served as vice president of his region of the Episcopal Church, directed the damage assessment program at the American Red Cross and officiated football games for the Southwestern Athletic Conference and the local high schools. Patterson also joined the Texas Master Chorale; and, at the time of the interview, was planning a tour of Italy with the group. He received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Metal for his service in the Vietnam War. Patterson also describes how he would like to be remembered and his advice to future generations, and narrates his photographs.