

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. John Cashin

PERSON

Cashin, John , 1928-

Alternative Names: Cashin, John , 1928-; John L. Cashin

Life Dates: April 16, 1928-March 23, 2011

Place of Birth: Huntsville, Alabama

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: Dentist; Political Activist

Biographical Note

Dentist and political activist Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. was born on April 16, 1928 in Huntsville, Alabama to Grace Brandon Cashin, a school principal, and Dr. John Logan Cashin, Sr., a dentist. He and his older brother, Hershell, who were always in the same year at school, were co-valedictorians of their Alabama A&M High School graduating class. He spent two years at Fisk University and then attended Tennessee State University, both located in Nashville, Tennessee. Cashin then received his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee in 1952.

Immediately after Cashin graduated from medical school, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was made a first lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for soldiers stationed near Fountainebleau, France. While in France, Cashin became familiar with a number of African American expatriates, including writer Richard Wright and Ollie Stewart, from the "Chicago Defender."

After two years in the U.S. Army, Cashin returned to the United States, where he became active in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1967, he helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) and was elected as the organization's first party chairman. He led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968, challenging the representative nature of the regular delegation and its loyalty to the national Democratic Party.

Cashin ran for Mayor of Huntsville, and in 1970, he was the NDPA's candidate for governor, where he ran against George Wallace. He received more than sixteen-percent of the votes in that election. Between 1968 and 1974, the NDPA facilitated the election of more than a hundred African Americans to public office in Alabama. In 1974, the Alabama Democratic Party surrendered and integrated their ballot.

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. passed away on March 23, 2011.

Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 24, 2007.

Related Entries

Cashin, Joan Carpenter [SPOUSEOF]
Wife

Cashin, Lois Miller [SPOUSEOF]
Wife

Cashin, Louise White [SPOUSEOF]
Wife

Cashin, Sr., John Logan [CHILDOF]
Father

Cashin, Grace Romanie Brandon [CHILDOF]
Mother

[GRANDCHILDOF]
Grandmother (P)

Cashin, Herschel B. [GRANDCHILDOF]
Grandfather (P)

Brandon, Idella "Dexie" [GRANDCHILDOF]
Grandmother (M)

Brandon, Claude Samuel [GRANDCHILDOF]
Grandfather (M)

Cashin, Herschel [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Cashin, Carroll Langston [PARENTOF]
Son

Cashin, John Mercer [PARENTOF]
Son

Cashin, Sheryll [PARENTOF]
Daughter

Brandon, Dan []
Relative

Brandon, Jack []
Uncle

Brandon, Callie []
Aunt

Brandon, Margaret []
Aunt

Brandon, Sister []
Aunt

Unknown []
Grandchild

Alabama A&M High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Tennessee State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A. and B.S.

Meharry Medical College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1952]

D.D.S

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

First Lieutenant

National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) [MEMBEROF]
Co-founder

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