

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Calvin Coolidge Goode

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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>	Goode, Calvin
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 12, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:09:50).
<b>Abstract:</b>	City council member Calvin Coolidge Goode (1927 - ) was the second African American to ever be on the Phoenix, Arizona City Council. Goode served for a total of eleven terms, a record twenty-two years. Goode was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 12, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_205
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

City council member Calvin Coolidge Goode served eleven consecutive terms (1972 to 1994), a total of twenty-two years, as a representative to the Phoenix, Arizona City Council. Born in rural Depew, Oklahoma in 1927, Goode's family moved to Arizona when he was ten months old. His family settled in a homestead near Gila Bend, Arizona, where they worked in agricultural fields picking cotton. Goode graduated from Carver High School in 1945, the only school in Arizona built exclusively for African American students. He then obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Arizona State University.

In 1949, Goode returned to Carver High School as an accountant, and later ran a tax accounting business, Calvin Goode & Associates. Goode worked for the Phoenix Union High School District from 1949 to 1979. He was elected as an at large representative to the Arizona City Council in 1972. This victory made Goode the second African American to ever serve on the Phoenix City Council. During his tenure, Goode ably advocated for jobs and job training in the community, improved programs for youth and developed a program to ensure that women and minority-owned small businesses would receive a proportionate share of city business. In 1984, Goode successfully advocated for a district form of city government.

As a Phoenix city councilman, Goode helped broker a compromise that led to a Phoenix ordinance that prohibited workplace discrimination against gays, lesbians and minorities. He was also instrumental in getting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observed in the City of Phoenix, paving the way for the holiday to be observed statewide. Goode also championed a range of programs, from Head Start to downtown renewal projects. To commemorate his years of service to the city, a Phoenix municipal building was named in Goode's honor.

Now retired, Goode continues to be involved in his community. He served on the Phoenix Elementary School Board for six years. Goode has been involved with Tanner Properties, which manages 393 apartments for seniors and disabled persons for twenty years. Goode remains active with the local Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center, and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center as well as other non-profit and governmental programs.

Calvin Goode was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 12, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode was conducted by Jacques Lesure on July 12, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. City council member Calvin Coolidge Goode (1927 - ) was the second African American to ever be on the Phoenix, Arizona City Council. Goode served for a total of eleven terms, a record twenty-two years.

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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:

Goode, Calvin

Lesure, Jacques (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Goode, Calvin--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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Phoenix (Ariz.)

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## **Occupations:**

City Council Member

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

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 Calvin Coolidge Goode, July 12, 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 (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 Calvin Coolidge Goode, Section A2007\_205\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:10 2007/07/12

Calvin Coolidge Goode was born on January 27, 1927 in Depew, Oklahoma to Clara Loring Goode and Warner Goode. His mother was born in Arkansas; and, as a young woman, moved to Oklahoma, where she met and married Goode's father. The couple relocated in 1927 to Gila Bend, Arizona, where they raised Goode and his siblings. Good's parents had little formal education, and taught him to prioritize his studies. He was also encouraged by Lloyd Dickey, the principal of Gila Bend's one-room school for African American children. In 1940, Goode relocated with his family to Prescott, Arizona in order to attend Prescott Junior High School, the closest facility for black students. After being diagnosed with a heart condition, he moved to his aunt and uncle's home in the lower-altitude city of Phoenix, Arizona, where he enrolled at George Washington Carver High School. Goode graduated in 1945, and matriculated at Phoenix Junior College, where he earned an associate's degree in business in 1947.

African American families--Arizona.

African Americans--Social conditions--Arizona.

Education, Secondary--Arizona.

Chronically ill children--Medical care--Arizona.

Video Oral History Interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode, Section  
A2007\_205\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:20 2007/07/12

Calvin Coolidge Goode earned an associate's degree in 1947 from Phoenix Junior College in Phoenix, Arizona. He then matriculated at Arizona State College in Tempe, Arizona, where he studied economics and management. Following his graduation in 1949, Goode was hired as an accountant and assistant secretary at Phoenix's George Washington Carver High School. When school integration was mandated in 1954, the black teachers were reassigned to white schools, and Goode was left unemployed for seven months until being hired as an assistant property control director at a previously all-white school. In 1960, Goode married teacher Georgia Stroud, who also worked in the public school system. He went on to obtain a counseling certification, and was employed as a school community worker for ten years. Goode was approached to run for city council in 1969, but declined to focus on his role as chairman of a local poverty program. He acquiesced in 1971, and became as Phoenix's second African American council member in 1972.

African American families--Arizona.

Discrimination in employment--Arizona.

Education, Higher--Arizona.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

African Americans--Employment--Arizona.

Video Oral History Interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode, Section  
A2007\_205\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:20 2007/07/12

Calvin Coolidge Goode completed his master's degree in education and counseling in 1971, just as he launched a campaign for the Phoenix City Council. After his election in 1972, Goode sought to increase the accessibility of the political leadership in Phoenix, Arizona. He also secured funding for improvements to the city's bridges, which were vulnerable to floods. Goode developed a reputation as conscientious council member, and helped secure city contracts for black businesses. He was an early advocate of the Head Start program, which came to Phoenix in 1967; and served as president and vice president of the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center. To

supplement his small salary from the city council, Goode continued working in the public school system until 1979, when he retired. Five years later, he was elected as the vice mayor under Mayor Terry Goddard. Goode also advocated for the transition to a district based system of governance, which came into effect in 1984.

African American politicians--Arizona.

City Council members--Arizona--Phoenix.

Political campaigns--Arizona--Phoenix.

Video Oral History Interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode, Section A2007\_205\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:20 2007/07/12

Calvin Coolidge Goode developed a reputation for strong interpersonal skills during his long career on the Phoenix City Council. He was a prime candidate for the interim mayoralty of Phoenix, Arizona upon the resignation of Mayor Terry Goddard in 1990; but, despite his superior qualifications, Goode tied with Councilman Paul Johnson, who was ultimately awarded the position. Goode served on the city council for another four years, retiring in 1994. At that time, the Calvin C. Goode Municipal Building was named in his honor. In retirement, Goode advocated for the construction of affordable housing in Phoenix. In 1998, he helped purchase George Washington Carver High School, which was converted into a museum. He and his wife also advocated for the preservation of Phoenix's historic Tanner Chapel A.M.E. Church. Goode describes his three children, and his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He also reflects upon his life and how he would like to be remembered.

African American politicians--Arizona.

African American families--Arizona--Phoenix.

Community activists--Arizona--Phoenix.

Political campaigns--Arizona--Phoenix.

Video Oral History Interview with Calvin Coolidge Goode, Section A2007\_205\_001\_005, TRT: 0:14:40 2007/07/12

Calvin Coolidge Goode ran eleven successful campaigns for the Phoenix City Council, including one campaign against white preacher James Outlaw. Goode describes his advice for young people, and concludes the interview by

narrating his photographs.

Community activists--Arizona--Phoenix

Goode, Calvin