Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Donald Campbell

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers®
1900 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616
info@thehistorymakers.com
www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Campbell, Donald

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Donald Campbell,

Dates: July 13, 2007

Bulk Dates: 2007

Physical Description: 5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:16:40).

Abstract: Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Donald Campbell (1935 - ) is a long-standing member of the Maricopa County Community College District Board and a retired military veteran. Campbell became the first African American to be accepted into the Arizona Air National Guard and the first African American in the Alabama National Guard. Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 13, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2007_206

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Donald Russell Campbell was born on September 14, 1935 in Elizabeth, Louisiana to Luvenia and John Estes Campbell. Campbell obtained his A.A. degree from Phoenix College in 1956. Upon completion of Phoenix College, Campbell received his B.A. degree in history and political science with a minor in speech and Spanish from Arizona State University. After graduating from college, Campbell married Elizabeth Hosley on August 20, 1960, and he had two sons, Derek and Darren. In 1961, Campbell attended the University of Arizona School of Law before withdrawing from the program one year later. Campbell was also awarded his Ph.D. in education administration, business and economics from Arizona State University in 1980.

Campbell continued pursuit of his education and served in a variety of roles throughout his career. Starting as a broker and partner for Webb, Williams, and Berry Realty in Phoenix, Arizona, he worked from 1956 to 1964 and began his military service in Europe during the “Berlin Build Up”. In total, Campbell devoted twenty-eight years of service to the Arizona Air National Guard. After his military service in Europe, Campbell returned to the United States and worked for the City of Phoenix in the Human Resources Development Department from 1966 to 1969. There, Campbell became the Director of the Concentrated Employment Program, a jointly sponsored pre-employment training program between the U.S. Department of Labor, the Phoenix Urban League and the Arizona State Employment Office. In 1972, Campbell worked for Arizona State University as the Director of the Center for Services to the Disadvantaged, and later, in 1975, as the Director of Community Services, where he specialized in coordinating special interest courses for the entire Arizona State University service area.
In 1982, Campbell was also elected to the Maricopa County Community College District Board. During his twenty-five years of service on the Board, Campbell served as the Governing Board President in 1987, 1996, 2001 and 2005. He also was elected Governing Board Secretary in 1986, 1995, 2000, 2004 and 2007. Campbell continues to pursue other endeavors including service on the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board, the Consortium of Black Organizations for the Arts, and the NAACP.

Donald Russell Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 13, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Donald Campbell was conducted by Jacques Lesure on July 13, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Donald Campbell (1935 - ) is a long standing member of the Maricopa County Community College District Board and a retired military veteran. Campbell became the first African American to be accepted into the Arizona Air National Guard and the first African American in the Alabama National Guard.

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:

Donald Campbell

Lesure, Jacques (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:
Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Donald Campbell

African Americans--Interviews
Donald Campbell--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews.

Education--Arizona--Phoenix.

Military forces(U.S.).

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)
The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection
Maricopa County Community College District

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers
MilitaryMakers

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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/26/2011 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, July 13, 2007**

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_001, TRT: 0:31:30
2007/07/13

Donald Russell Campbell reflects upon his childhood experiences and education growing up in segregated Elizabeth, Louisiana. As a child, Campbell says that he spent most of his free time with his family, in church, in school, or doing chores at home. Campbell remembers his presence as a child at an all African American elementary school comprised of grades one through twelve. Campbell then discusses how his family moved to Westlake, Louisiana for two years and eventually settled in Phoenix, Arizona after the sawmill plants closed in Elizabeth, Louisiana and his father died of lung disease. He describes attending Booker T. Washington School in Phoenix for fourth grade and Dunbar Elementary School in the fifth grade. Campbell shares his perspective on the prevalent segregation in schools in Arizona until 1953, and recounts the dire conditions of people living in the Matthew Henson Housing Projects, an all black community in Phoenix, Arizona.

African American families--Louisiana--Elizabeth.
African American families--Louisiana--Westlake.
Public housing.
Education, Urban--Social aspects--United States.
Segregation in education--Arizona.
Poverty--Arizona.

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20
2007/07/13

Donald Russell Campbell discusses his educational experiences as a young child and his transition to college. Reflecting on his interactions with his grade school teachers at Dunbar Elementary and Bethune Elementary, Campbell remembers how his teachers encouraged his interests in civic and community affairs. Campbell picked cotton at a very young age for money and bought his own clothes. After his mother died, Campbell moved to Oakland, California to live with his sister, Alvie Bible. Campbell recalls that he wanted to finish high school in California and attend the University of California, Berkeley on a track scholarship. However, Campbell notes that his sister made he and his siblings move back to Arizona, where he attended Phoenix Tech High School until 1956. He states that he enrolled in Arizona State University and worked at Memorial Hospital to help fund his education. Campbell closes the tape discussing his marriage to his wife, Doris, in 1960.

African American families--Arizona.
Education--Arizona--Phoenix.
Arizona State University--students.
University of California, Berkeley.
Self-reliant living.
Donald Russell Campbell describes meeting his wife, Doris, in 1960 at Barber Scotia College, in Concord, North Carolina. After reflecting on meeting his wife, Campbell explains his acceptance to law school in Tucson, Arizona in 1961, where he attended for one year before joining the U.S. Military. Campbell describes his stay in the Arizona National Guard until 1974, his time in the military during the Berlin Build Up, the development of the National Guard Union and his involvement with the Alabama National Guard. Campbell discusses his involvement with community activism and his role in the War on Poverty in Phoenix, Arizona as the Director of the Concentrated Employment program for the Arizona State Employment Office in 1963. Campbell talks about the birth of his two sons, Derek and Darren, who both died at a young age. He concludes by discussing his service to education boards during the late 1960s and early 1970s, including the Roosevelt Elementary School Board.

Donald Russell Campbell discusses his campaigns and his involvement as an active member in community and civic affairs as a key figure in the Arizona School Board. Campbell describes working for the National Guard from 1974 to 1980 as the Affirmative Action Officer and the traditional and non-traditional courses he taught at Arizona State University. He reflects on his career at the U.S. Air Force Social Actions School in the late 1970s and then discusses his thirty-year career on the Maricopa County Community College District Board. While expressing his vision of the importance of education in society, Campbell recounts his biggest challenges he encountered as an educator through the 1990s, as the interim Vice Provost in University Relations at Arizona State University.

Donald Russell Campbell describes his community involvement as the director of the Project Challenge program in 1990, a military funded program for high school dropouts between the ages of sixteen and nineteen throughout the state of Michigan. Campbell explains that since 1993, the program continues to grant GEDs to students who completed the program after four months. He closes the...
interview answering philosophical questions.
High school dropouts--Arizona.
Project Challenge (Ariz.).