

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Loann Honesty King

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | King, Loann Honesty, 1940-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | February 6, 2008 and May 28, 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 11 Betacame SP videocassettes (5:17:15).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Program administrator and educator Loann Honesty King (1940 - ) served as a consultant for the Department of Education, and as the Associate Director of Jobs at Youth Chicago. She later become Dean of Instruction and Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management at Kennedy-King College. King was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 6, 2008 and May 28, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2008_014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educational expert Loann Julia Honesty King was born on December 10, 1940 in Chicago, Illinois to Elizabeth and Edward Honesty. Her brother is Edward F. Honesty, Jr. King attended Englewood High School in Chicago. In 1961, she married Chicago contractor and executive Paul J. King, Jr. They have two adult sons, Paul J. King, III and Timothy J. King. King received her B.A. degree in education in 1963 from Chicago Teachers College (now Chicago State

University). She did graduate work at Northeastern Illinois University and received her M.A. degree in inner-city studies in 1971.

King began a highly respected career as a teacher and counselor in the Chicago Public Schools in 1963, and became a program development consultant for the U.S. Department of Education in 1976. Her dedication to youth enrichment continued as she became the Associate Director of Jobs for Youth Chicago in 1980. She also worked as a grant coordinator for the Illinois Community College Board, Malcolm X College and City-Wide College. Committed to the growth of Chicago-area community colleges, King served in several capacities at Olive-Harvey College beginning in 1987, including serving as Dean of Instruction and Dean of Career Programs. She moved on to become Dean of Instruction at Kennedy-King College in 2001, where she also served as Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management. She retired from her position as Vice President at Kennedy-King in 2003.

King is a dedicated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was initiated into the Beta Chapter in Chicago in 1959. She serves as Chairman of the International Program Committee and has also authored two editions of a history of the Sorority's Central Region. She also served the Sorority as National Treasurer and Central Regional Director, among many other positions. She is also a member of The Links, Inc.

King has sat on the boards of numerous community organizations including the Jane Adams Hull House Foundation, Parkway Community House (served as President) and the HRDI (Human Resources Development Institute). She currently serves on the boards of the Chicago Community Trust African American Legacy Initiative (founding member) and Urban Prep Academies, where her son Timothy is the founder and CEO. She has been honored extensively, by organizations such as *Ebony* Magazine, the U.S. Department of Education, Englewood High School Alumni Hall of Fame, Olive-Harvey College, Kennedy-King College, the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, and the University of South Carolina and Houghton Mifflin. Loann and her husband established the Loann and Paul King Philanthropic Fund in 2001, with Chicago Community Trust, becoming the Trust's first family donor advised fund established by African Americans.

King was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 6, 2008 as part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Centennial Boulé 2008 100 year celebration. Segments of these interviews were used in a DVD entitled *A.K.A. Sorority: A Legacy of Supreme Service*.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Loann Honesty King was conducted by Cheryl Butler and Julieanna L. Richardson on February 6, 2008 and May 28, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 11 Betacame SP videocassettes. Program administrator and educator Loann Honesty King (1940 - ) served as a consultant for the Department of Education, and as the Associate Director of Jobs at Youth Chicago. She later become Dean of Instruction and Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management at Kennedy-King College.

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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:**

King, Loann Honesty, 1940-

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bowen, Crick (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

King, Loann Honesty, 1940---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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## **Occupations:**

Program Administrator

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Educator

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

CivicMakers|EducationMakers

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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 Loann Honesty King, February 6, 2008 and May 28, 2008. 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 Loann Honesty King, Section A2008\_014\_002\_007, TRT: 0:30:48 2008/05/28

Loann Honesty King was born on December 10, 1940 in Chicago, Illinois to Elizabeth Chipchase Honesty and Edward Honesty, Sr. Her maternal great-grandmother was African American while her great-grandfather was white and rumored to be a Klansman. Honesty King's grandmother and mother migrated from Tennessee to

Chicago in the mid-1920s. Her paternal grandmother, Julia Honesty Hellens, was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania and moved to Chicago as a teenager. She and her husband, Frank Hellens, were sportsmen, and they taught Honesty King to shoot a gun. Honesty King was raised on the South Side of Chicago, where she lived with her parents, paternal grandparents and her mother's sister, Katheryn Deberry Duke. She began her education at William W. Carter Elementary School, where she took synchronized swimming lessons. Although she excelled academically, she received poor marks in conduct. As a young girl, she listened to radio programs like 'The Shadow.' She also describes her family's holiday traditions.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section A2008\_014\_002\_008, TRT: 0:31:16 2008/05/28

Loann Honesty King attended William W. Carter Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois. As a girl, she was outgoing and considerate, although she received low marks in conduct at school. Upon completing the eighth grade, she matriculated at Englewood High School in Chicago. During this time, she frequented the Church of the Good Shepherd Congregational United Church of Christ on Prairie Avenue. She also accompanied her maternal grandmother to Baptist church services, where she was moved by the spiritual music. Honesty King's father, Edward Honesty, Sr., was an entrepreneur who owned several businesses on the South Side of Chicago, including a barbershop and a golf school; and her mother, Elizabeth Chipchase Honesty, worked at a cleaners, and later for a currency exchange. Honesty King remembers witnessing racial conflict at high school football games. She also describes her experience of discrimination when an elementary school teacher forbade her from wearing a shamrock costume.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section A2008\_014\_002\_009, TRT: 0:29:13 2008/05/28

Loann Honesty King graduated from Englewood High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1958. While she wanted to attend Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in East Lansing, she instead enrolled at Chicago Teachers College, where she majored in business

education. In 1959, she pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), and was initiated into the Beta Chapter, the second oldest AKA undergraduate chapter. That year, she met her husband, Paul J. King, who was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The couple married in 1961. At this point in the interview, she describes her experiences with hazing. After obtaining her certification, she completed her student teaching at Chicago's Wendell Phillips High School and John Marshall Harlan High School, where she worked in the counseling department. Then, she was assigned to Parker High School in Chicago. She remembers the gang environment at the start of her teaching career; and the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the students and faculty.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section A2008\_014\_002\_010, TRT: 0:30:45 2008/05/28

Loann Honesty King was a member of the faculty of Parker High School in Chicago, Illinois when the students took over the building to advocate for the inclusion of African American history into the curriculum. She admired the protest and other civil rights activities in Chicago. Frustrated by the lack of administrative support for teachers, Honesty King transitioned to the counseling department at Parker High School, where she provided education and career advice for students. During this time, the U.S. Department of Education invited her to join its panel on the Triple T program, which addressed teacher training curriculum at colleges and universities. In 1980, she became the associate executive director of Jobs for Youth/Chicago, Inc. Later, she accepted a position with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), which was based in Springfield, Illinois. Through her work with ICCB, she began her career with the City Colleges of Chicago; first at Olive-Harvey College, and followed by Kennedy-King College.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section A2008\_014\_002\_011, TRT: 0:22:13 2008/05/28

Loann Honesty King pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) after her first year at Chicago Teachers College in Chicago, Illinois. She was initiated

into the undergraduate Beta Chapter and transitioned to the Theta Omega Chapter when she graduated. As an active member of AKA, Honesty King befriended AKA leaders like Loraine Richardson Green and Carey B. Maddox Preston. When she became president of the Theta Omega Chapter in the early 1970s, she organized fundraising activities, career fairs and a vocational program for former juvenile inmates. She also helped oversee the development of the AKArara Foundation, Inc. Community Service Center in Chicago's Woodlawn area. She reflects upon her leadership, and the AKA sisterhood. Honesty King retired from the City Colleges of Chicago in 2003. She was also the recipient of the Outstanding First Year Student Advocates Award from the University of South Carolina. She concludes the interview by reflecting upon her life and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:00 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King was born on December 10, 1940 in Chicago, Illinois to Elizabeth Chipchase Honesty and Edward Honesty, Sr. Her maternal great-grandmother was a freed slave of Nigerian heritage, while her great-grandfather was a white man who was a landowner, and rumored Ku Klux Klan member. Honesty King's mother was born in 1924 in Denmark, Tennessee, but raised in Chicago. Honesty King's father was born in 1919 in Chicago, where his mother, Julia Honesty Hellens, worked as a domestic. A graduate of Chicago's Englewood High School, he went on to own several businesses on the South Side of Chicago, including a barbershop and a pool room, while Honesty King's mother went on to become one of the first African Americans to own a currency exchange in Chicago. Honesty King began her education at William W. Carter Elementary School in Chicago, where she faced racial discrimination when she dressed as a shamrock for Halloween. She then attended Englewood High School, where she had a tight-knit group of friends.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:40 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King graduated from Englewood High



School in Chicago, Illinois in 1958. She applied to Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in East Lansing, but was encouraged by her mother, Elizabeth Chipchase Honesty, to attend Chicago Teachers College, where she studied business education and accounting. During her first semester, she was invited to a pledge party hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA). Afterwards, she joined the Ivy Leaf Pledge Club; and participated in social and service activities, and met Supreme Basilei Lorraine Richardson Green and Carey B. Maddox Preston. Honesty King and five other women were initiated into the undergraduate Beta Chapter of AKA in 1959. Two years later, while traveling to a boule in Cincinnati, Ohio, Honesty King met her husband, Paul J. King, who was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Upon graduating from college, she joined AKA's graduate Theta Omega Chapter in Chicago, and began her career with Chicago Public Schools.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:30 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King began her teaching career at Parker High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1963. She then transitioned to the school's counseling department, which she later directed. She remembers the student takeover of the school; and the impact of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death. In 1971, she received her master's degree in inner city studies from the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. From that experience, she was invited to serve on a panel hosted by the U.S. Department of Education for its teacher training project, Training of Teacher Trainers. During this period, she was active in the Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 1978, she was elected national treasurer under Supreme Basileus Barbara Kinard Phillips. Honesty King describes her civil rights activities in Chicago, including her involvement in Dr. King's march in Marquette Park, and in Harold Washington's mayoral campaign in 1983.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:30 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King was elected supreme tamiouchos, or

national treasurer, of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) in 1976. As treasurer, she worked to fulfill the vision of Supreme Basileus Barbara Kinard Phillips. She also worked closely with other AKA leaders like Faye Beverly Bryant, Freddie Groomes McLendon and Patricia Russell-McCloud. At this point in the interview, she talks about AKA's undergraduate membership, and the leadership opportunities within the sorority. She also reflects upon her tenure as treasurer. In 1980, she left her employment with Chicago Public Schools, and became the executive director of Jobs for Youth/Chicago, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. Then, she worked as a grant coordinator for the Illinois Community College Board, where she monitored the allocation of grants at schools in Northern Illinois. Honesty King and her husband, Paul J. King, had two sons: Paul King, III and Timothy King. In addition to AKA, she was active in the Chicago Urban League and Parkway Community House.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_005, TRT: 0:28:20 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King was director of the Central Region for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) from 1982 to 1986. In this capacity, she worked to address issues of hazing on college campuses throughout the Midwest. She faced one of her biggest challenges at University Of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where the Gamma Chapter's tradition of hazing was well established. When her term ended, she continued her involvement with the Theta Omega Chapter, which developed the AKARAMA Foundation, Inc. Community Service Center in Chicago, Illinois with support from alderwomen Lorraine Dixon and Arenda Troutman, and State Senator Emil Jones, Jr. At this point in the interview, she talks about her mentors in AKA, including Faye Beverly Bryant, Eva Evans and Julia Purnell. In the 1990s, Honesty King became the dean of careers and instruction at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago. Then she served as vice president Wellington at Kennedy-King College under Wilson's administration. She reflects upon her career in education.

Video Oral History Interview with Loann Honesty King, Section B2008\_014\_001\_006, TRT: 0:26:00 2008/02/06

Loann Honesty King wrote the book 'Pledged to Remember' to preserve the history of the Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA). Eight years after its publication, she was asked by Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson to publish a second edition. During this time, Honesty King was employed by the City Colleges of Chicago, where she served as vice president of Olive-Harvey College for nine years under President Wellington Webb. She retired in 2003. Three years later, she chaired the international program committee of AKA; and, at the time of the interview, was helping to organize the sorority's centennial celebration. She also describes the AKA Supreme Basileus Barbara McKinzie's Extraordinary Service Program. Honesty King was a founding board member of the African American Legacy initiative at Chicago Community Trust, where she and her husband, Paul J. King, established the Loann and Paul King Philanthropic Fund. She reflects upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.