

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Tyrone T. Dancy

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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>	Dancy, Tyrone T., 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone T. Dancy,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 25, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:17:17).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Author, (ret.) U.S. combat veteran, and deacon Tyrone T. Dancy (1947 - ) , author of <i>Serving Under Adverse Conditions</i> , is a combat Vietnam veteran who was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star for Heroism with the “V” for Valor, and the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat. Dancy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 25, 2013, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_096
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

U.S. Army soldier Tyrone T. Dancy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dancy was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969 and went on to serve in the Vietnam War with the 199th light infantry brigade. Following a brief tour of duty, Dancy returned to the United States and continued his education. He graduated from Pierce Junior College with his A.A. degree in arts and humanities and then enrolled at LaSalle University where he received his B.A. degree in sociology and psychology in 2005, and his M.A. degree in communications in 2007.

In April of 1977, Dancy began his career with the State Labor Department of Pennsylvania as a disabled veteran's outreach program specialist. Throughout his twenty-five year career, he has provided employment assistance and guidance to thousands of veterans. In 1990, Dancy worked as a local veteran's employment representative. He then served as a veteran's program function supervisor for twelve years before retiring on November 22, 2002. Dancy also served for a short time as the chairperson of the Pennsylvania International Association of Personnel in Employment Security (IAPES) Veterans Committee as well as the vice chairperson of the IAPES National Veterans Committee.

Throughout the early 1990s, Dancy wrote a bi-weekly column entitled, "On Point" for the *Philadelphia Leader*. This led him to write and self-publish the book, *Serving Under Adverse Conditions*, which discloses the struggles of Vietnam veterans. Dancy went on to co-produce, "Letters from the Attic," a play about African American war veterans. Dancy also serves as host and producer of the Veterans Hour Radio Program on WDAS-AM 1480 in Philadelphia.

Dancy has been honored by numerous civic organizations for his work on behalf of veterans. He received the Dean K. Phillips Award from the National Veterans Training Institute as well as an award from the National Office of Vietnam Veterans of America for his leadership in the passage of legislation for a Veterans Bill of Rights in the State of Pennsylvania. Dancy was presented with a Senatorial Citation in 1994 from Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz of Pennsylvania for his leadership on veterans issues. Dancy's military honors include the Bronze Star for Heroism with the "V" for Valor, the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Tyrone T. Dancy was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on 03/25/2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Tyrone T. Dancy was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 25, 2013, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Author, (ret.) U.S. combat veteran, and deacon Tyrone T. Dancy (1947 - ) , author of *Serving Under Adverse Conditions*, is a combat Vietnam veteran who was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star for Heroism with the "V" for Valor, and the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat.

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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:

Dancy, Tyrone T., 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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United States Army

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## **Occupations:**

(Ret.) U.S. Combat Veteran

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Deacon

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Author

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MilitaryMakers|MediaMakers

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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 Tyrone T. Dancy,

## 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 Tyrone T. Dancy, Section  
A2013\_096\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:44 2013/03/25

Tyrone Dancy describes his family background. Dancy's parents, Elaine Strayhorn and Leon Turner Dancy, were both born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the 1920s. His mother was a seamstress and his father served for twenty years in the U.S. Navy. Dancy's parents met while his father was on leave from the Navy. They had two children together but never married. Dancy's maternal grandparents, Lillian and John Strayhorn, were from North Carolina but moved to Philadelphia where they raised their family. Dancy's paternal grandmother was Marian Dancy. He did know his paternal grandfather because he died before Dancy was born. When Dancy's father died, his mother took another husband and had four children by him. Dancy describes his relationship with his younger siblings and shares his earliest childhood memory.

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Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone T. Dancy, Section  
A2013\_096\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:35 2013/03/25

Tyrone Dancy describes growing up in Philadelphia and Germantown, Pennsylvania. He remembers the Raymond Rosen Homes, where his family lived and the intense gang activity in West Philadelphia. Dancy attended George L. Brooks School for elementary school. He then went to William Shoemaker Junior High School for a year, before graduating from Thomas Fitzsimons Junior High School in 1962. Dancy recalls being an average student and a sharp dresser in junior high school. He also recalls having a part-time job at a grocery store. Dancy describes his experience at Germantown High School as the best years of his teenage life. He remembers an English teacher that impressed upon him the power of words and complimented Dancy's signing in a high school talent show.

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Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone T. Dancy, Section  
A2013\_096\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:36 2013/03/25

Tyrone Dancy attended John F. Kennedy Vocational School under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), after graduating high school in 1965. He studied to be a milling machine operator and was working at Wright Metal Trade when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969. Dancy describes his basic training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and his advanced training at Fort McClellan in Alabama. He went on to serve in the Vietnam War with the 199th Infantry Brigade. Dancy remembers the sweltering that greeted him and the other soldiers when they arrived in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

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Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone T. Dancy, Section  
A2013\_096\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:15 2013/03/25

Tyrone Dancy describes his first combat mission in My Lai, Vietnam during the Vietnam War. While engaging in combat, Dancy was severely injured by a rocket attack. He explains that when the shrapnel from the exploding rocket hit him, the metal fragments covered almost the entire right side of his body--from head to toe. Dancy remained conscious through the entire ordeal and was transferred to various hospitals in Vietnam, Japan and the United States to recover. His injuries were extensive and caused bilateral hearing loss in his right ear. Dancy documents his injuries from the rocket attack and subsequent rehabilitation in the self-published book, "Serving Under Adverse Conditions".

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Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone T. Dancy, Section  
A2013\_096\_001\_005, TRT: 5:19:07 2013/03/25

Tyrone Dancy was assigned to clerical duty at Fort Devens in Massachusetts following his recovery from injuries sustained in the Vietnam War. However, he soon began to experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Dancy was medically discharged from the U.S. Army, after further evaluation of his condition showed he was no longer fit for duty. Dancy received several medals for his service during the Vietnam War, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After being discharged from the U.S. Army, Dancy worked as a non-teaching assistant with the School Board of Philadelphia and at the VA Hospital in the Administration Department. He also obtained his

associate degree from Pierce Junior College in Philadelphia.

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