

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Condace Pressley

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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>	Pressley, Condace
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 19, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:57:34).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Broadcast journalist Condace Pressley (1964 - ) is the assistant program manager for Cox Media Group in Atlanta, hosts the radio program Perspectives, and was previously the president of the National Association of Black Journalists and the director of the Radio Television News Directors Association. Pressley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 19, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_049
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Condace Pressley was born in 1964 in Marietta, Georgia. She graduated from Marietta High School in 1982, where she was a columnist for her high school paper and co-editor of the school's year book. She then went on to attend the University of Georgia and served as the news director of the college's radio station before graduating magna cum laude with her B.A. degree in journalism in 1986.

Pressley was first hired at Cox as a reporter/anchor in 1986. She worked her way up, and in 1999, became the assistant program director and worked on radio stations AM750 and NOW95.5FM News/Talk WSB. In 1992, she was promoted to Cox's general manager; and in 2012, became the general manager for WSB-AM. Pressley hosts her own show, *Perspectives* , where she interviews celebrities, authors, news makers and community leaders. She also contributes news reports to *Atlanta's Morning News with Scott Slade* and the *Sean Hannity Show* .

Pressley has been recognized numerous times for the quality of her journalism. In 1990 and 1991, she was named Radio News Woman of the Year Atlanta by the American Women in Radio and Television; and in 1990, she was also named Radio News Woman of the Year Atlanta by the American Women in Radio and Television. Pressley was elected president of the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists in 1993. In 2001, she was elected president of the National Association of Black Journalists, and became director of the Radio Television News Directors Association. Pressley was honored at the 2010, YWCA Tribute to Women Leaders, and named a Pioneer Journalist by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists in 2012. Marietta Mayor Steve Tumlin named July 11, 2012, Condace Pressley Day.

Pressley has been published in the *Nieman Reports* , the *Federal Communications Law Journal* , and *The Atlanta Daily Journal* , and has served as a featured as a guest on *CNN* and *C-SPAN* .

Condace Pressley was interviewed by *The History Makers* on February 19, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Condace Pressley was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 19, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast journalist Condace Pressley (1964 - ) is the assistant program manager for Cox Media Group in Atlanta, hosts the radio program *Perspectives*, and was previously the president of the National Association of Black Journalists and the director of the Radio Television News Directors Association.

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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:**

Pressley, Condace

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Pressley, Condace--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:**

Broadcast Journalist

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

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 Condace Pressley, February 19, 2014. 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 Condace Pressley, Section  
A2014\_049\_001\_001, TRT: 1:07:39 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley describes her family background. Her mother, Mary Bates Pressley, was born on February 19, 1942 in Marietta, Georgia to Lee Bates and domestic worker Irene Bates. She attended the segregated Lemon Street School in Marietta before attending nursing school at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She then worked as a nurse for Kennestone Hospital and for the Lockheed Corporation in Marietta. Pressley recounts her mother's experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, when she ate at newly integrated restaurants and refused to sit in the back of the bus to and from work. Pressley's father, Joe Tilman Pressley, was born on May 18, 1939 in Rydal, Georgia to Rena Wise and Willie Boyd. His stepfather was Theo Pressley, Sr. but he was raised by his mother's uncle. Joe was a janitor for the Coca-Cola Company before he was hired at Lockheed in Marietta. There, he was promoted to the position of shopkeeper. He would go on to hold the same position at the Ford Motor Company in McDonough, Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section  
A2014\_049\_001\_002, TRT: 2:27:40 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley recalls her childhood in Marietta, Georgia. She recounts how her parents met while they were both working at the Lockheed Corporation. Her father was a shopkeeper and her mother was a nurse. Pressley describes her parents, how she takes after them, and her brother, Joseph Jabaar Pressley. Her earliest childhood memory is of reading the encyclopedia with her mother. She describes her childhood homes, and the sights, sounds, and smells of growing up. She recalls

watching the 1969 moon landing with her mother and the meals her family would eat each week. Pressley describes her childhood neighborhood and St. Joseph's Catholic School in Marietta, where she attended elementary and middle school from 1969 to 1978. She was one of two black students at the school. She talks about the 1968 assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and her mother's mentor. In 1978, Pressley entered Marietta High School. She talks about her extracurricular activities and her teachers there.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section A2014\_049\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:16 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley recalls her high school and college years. She describes the changes that occurred in Georgia in the late 1970s, including the 1976 presidential election of Georgian Jimmy Carter and the advent of CNN and cable TV. At Marietta High School in Marietta, Georgia, Pressley was on the yearbook staff. In 1982, she received scholarships from the Times Mirror Foundation and the University of Georgia (UGA) to attend UGA in Athens. Pressley talks about her parents' divorce. She also describes her teachers at UGA's College of Journalism and Mass Communication and her first radio journalism jobs at WUOG, WGAU, WNGC, and WFRC in Athens. She talks about athletes Herschel Walker and Dominique Wilkins at UGA, and Dale Ellis at Marietta High School. Pressley describes HistoryMakers Monica Kaufman and Jocelyn Dorsey. Kaufman was one of her mentors in broadcast journalism. At UGA, Pressley was involved in the Cinematic Arts club and Gamma Sigma Sigma, a service sorority. She received her A.B.J. degree in 1986.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section A2014\_049\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:12 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley describes her early radio journalism career in Atlanta, Georgia. At the University of Georgia in Athens, she was a member of the African American honor society Abne Fooku and the Journalism Association for Minorities. She also interned at the Georgia Radio News Service. Upon graduating in 1986, she interned at Lockheed Corporation in Marietta, Georgia. She returned to the Radio News Service before joining WSB Radio in

Atlanta, where she worked with Skinny Bobby Harper. In 1991, during the Gulf War, the station stopped playing music and became a news talk station. Pressley describes covered politics and met four U.S. presidents while serving as president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). She also worked with Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson. She describes covering local stories at WSB Radio and serving as president of the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists during the first UNITY conference in 1994. She also talks about the election of Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section  
A2014\_049\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:25 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley recounts her career in the late 1990s and 2000s. She describes interviewing civil rights leaders including Coretta Scott King and HistoryMakers John Lewis and Andrew Young. She also talks about the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, and about professional boxer Evander Holyfield. Pressley explains her journalistic philosophy. On her radio program 'Perspectives,' formerly 'Minority Perspective,' on WBS Radio in Atlanta, she interviewed many figures including Coretta Scott King along with HistoryMakers John Lewis, Terry McMillan, and Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian. Pressley recalls the 1994 and 2000 Super Bowl games in Atlanta and reflects on major events in Atlanta's recent history. She then recounts her memories of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Pressley was president of the National Association of Black Journalists from 2001 to 2003. During her presidency, she made the organization financially solvent and implemented policies aimed at ongoing stability.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section  
A2014\_049\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:54 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley reflects upon her career as a news director. She talks about low African American representation among news directors and the challenges faced by minority news directors like Max Robinson who worked at ABC. She describes changes to broadcast news programming since the 1960s and the effect of news networks like CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC on American

news audiences. Pressley reflects upon the representation of African American political views in cable and broadcast news. She also describes why conservative voices are dominant in talk radio. Pressley talks about running conservative pundits like Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Herman Cain on her station, WSB Radio in Atlanta, Georgia. Pressley also describes her civic engagement as an alumna of the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. She talks about HistoryMaker Xernona Clayton, whom she interviewed twice. Pressley reflects upon her life, her future plans, and what she would do differently.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section A2014\_049\_001\_007, TRT: 7:14:17 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley reflects upon her professional and personal life. She attended HistoryMaker Barack Obama's presidential inaugurations in 2009 and in 2013. Pressley remembers interviewing Antoinette Tuff, the local bookkeeper at McNair Discovery Learning Academy in DeKalb County, Georgia who persuaded a gunman who entered the Academy to surrender to police in 2013. Pressley expresses her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She also describes her family, including her mother, Mary Bates Pressley, her brother, Joseph Jabaar Pressley, and her niece Carson. Pressley reflects upon her legacy as president of the National Association of Black Journalists, and as an organizer for the Care-A-Thon charity at the Aflac Cancer Center, part of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia. She describes how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Condace Pressley, Section A2014\_049\_001\_008, TRT: 8:10:11 2014/02/19

Condace Pressley narrates her photographs.