

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John W. Bluford III

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Bluford, John Wesly, 1949-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III,
Dates:	November 13, 2021
Bulk Dates:	2021
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:02:18).
Abstract:	Healthcare executive and healthcare education organization founder John W. Bluford III (1949 -) founded the Metropolitan Health Plan in 1983 and the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute in 2012 and served as CEO of Hennepin County Medical Center from 1993 to 1999 and as CEO of Truman Medical Centers from 1999 to 2013. Bluford became the first African American chair of the board of the Missouri Hospital Association, in 2006, and of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, in 2007; he also served as chair of the board of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (later America's Essential Hospitals), in 2009, and the American Hospital Association, in 2011. Bluford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 13, 2021, in Kiawah Island, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2021_011
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Healthcare executive and healthcare education organization founder John W. Bluford III was born on May 1, 1949, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended public schools in Philadelphia and in Columbia, South Carolina, graduating from Columbia's C.A. Johnson High School. Bluford received his B.A. degree in biology in 1971 from Fisk University and his M.B.A. degree in management in 1975 from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. In 1981, he attended the Executive Program in Health System Management at Harvard University.

In 1972, Bluford worked as an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, and in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1973, he became an administrative resident at Cook County Hospital, in Chicago, Illinois, where he served as evening and weekend administrator from 1974 to 1977. That year, he became an administrator at the Pilot City Health Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bluford became associate administrator of Minneapolis' Hennepin County Medical Center in 1982. The following year, he founded the Metropolitan Health Plan, a Medicaid HMO, in Minneapolis. He became deputy administrator of Hennepin County Medical Center in 1988 and its CEO in 1993. Bluford became executive director of Truman Medical Centers, in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1999, and its president and CEO in 2002. In 2012, he founded the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute in Kansas City, Missouri. Bluford retired as CEO of Truman Medical Centers in 2014.

Bluford has served as chair of the board of the American Hospital Association, the National Association of Public

Hospitals and Health Systems (later America's Essential Hospitals), the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and the Missouri Hospital Association. He also has served on the boards of Fisk University, Morehouse School of Medicine, North Carolina A&T University, Western Governors University, H&R Block Bank, DeCare International, Delta Dental, Joint Commission Resources, Missouri Health Connection, and Summit Bank. Bluford has served as chair of the Centene Corporation's National Hospital Operating Committee and of Walgreens's Health Systems Information Advisory Board. He is a life fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Psi Phi.

Bluford has been the recipient of the American Hospital Association Award of Honor, the National Center for Healthcare Leadership's Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award, Modern Healthcare's CEO/IT Achievement Award, Northwestern University's Laura G. Jackson Award, Kansas City's Nonprofit Professional of the Year Award, the Missouri Hospital Association's Distinguished Service Award and Visionary Leadership Award, the Urban League Difference Maker Award, the NAACP Special Achievement Award, the National Minority Quality Forum Booker T. Washington Award, the Kellogg School of Management Black Management Association Alumni of the Year award, and the Greater Kansas City Labor Management Cooperative Leadership Award. He also was inducted into the Richland One (Columbia, South Carolina, School District) Hall of Fame and has been recognized in Modern Healthcare's 100 Most Influential List.

Bluford and his wife, Joanne, live in Lee's Summit, Missouri. They have three children, John, Jennifer, and Bruce.

John W. Bluford III was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 13, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John W. Bluford III was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 13, 2021, in Kiawah Island, South Carolina, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Healthcare executive and healthcare education organization founder John W. Bluford III (1949 -) founded the Metropolitan Health Plan in 1983 and the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute in 2012 and served as CEO of Hennepin County Medical Center from 1993 to 1999 and as CEO of Truman Medical Centers from 1999 to 2013. Bluford became the first African American chair of the board of the Missouri Hospital Association, in 2006, and of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, in 2007; he also served as chair of the board of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (later America's Essential Hospitals), in 2009, and the American Hospital Association, in 2011.

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:

Bluford, John Wesley, 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bluford, John Wesley, 1949---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Chief Executive Officer

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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 John W. Bluford III, November 13, 2021. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_001, TRT: 1:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_002, TRT: 2:29:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_003, TRT: 3:30:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_004, TRT: 4:30:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_005, TRT: 5:32:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_006, TRT: 6:28:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_007, TRT: 7:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John W. Bluford III, Section A2021_011_001_008, TRT: 8:31:16 ?