

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown

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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>	Brown, Manson Kevin, 1956-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 12, 2022
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:45:28).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Coast Guard Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown (1956 - ) was the first African American to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard, Commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 12, 2022, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2022_052
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Coast Guard Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown was born on July 23, 1956 in Washington, D.C. to Catherine Harris and Manson Brown, Jr. In 1974, he entered the United States Coast Guard and enrolled in the United States Coast Guard Academy. In 1978, he graduated with his B.S. degree in civil engineering, becoming the twenty-third African American to graduate in the history of the Academy. In 1985, Brown received his M.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Then, in 2000, he graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with his M.S. degree in national resources strategy. Brown is a registered professional civil engineer.

Brown's first assignment was as an Assistant Engineering Officer aboard the icebreaker *Glacier*. During his service, Brown completed numerous assignments, including as Deputy Group Commander at Group Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, Assistant Chief of the Civil Engineering Division at Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, and an Engineering Assignment Officer in the Officer Personnel Division at the Coast Guard Headquarters. In 1999, he was appointed as military assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation where he served until 2001. After 9/11, Brown was temporarily assigned as Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. In 2003, he served as Chief of Officer Personnel Management at the Coast Guard Personnel Command before holding the position of Senior Advisor for Transportation to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, Iraq in 2004. In 2010, Brown became the first African American to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral, serving as Commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area. In 2012, he was appointed Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, where he oversaw a staff of 13,000 and a budget of over \$4 billion. Brown retired from the Coast Guard in 2014, but by 2015, he was appointed by President Barack Obama as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and as Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and chair of NOAA's Observing Systems Council.

Brown has served as national president of the National Naval Officers Association, chair of the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, and on the advisory board for the National Academy of Sciences' Gulf Research Program. Brown serves as a member of several organizations including the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the Naval Order of the United States, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.

In 1994, Brown was the first recipient of the Coast Guard Witherspoon Award for Inspirational Leadership. In 2012, the National Society for Black Engineers awarded him its Golden Torch Award. In 2014, Brown received the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the NAACP Meritorious Service Award and was named an honorary Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer. Brown holds an honorary doctorate from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Brown and his wife, Herminia Banez Brown, reside in Washington, D.C. They have three sons, Manson, Robert, and William.

Manson Brown was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 12, 2022.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 12, 2022, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Coast Guard Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown (1956 - ) was the first African American to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard, Commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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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:

Brown, Manson Kevin, 1956-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, Manson Kevin, 1956---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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United States. Coast Guard

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## Occupations:

Admiral

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers

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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 Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, May 12, 2022. 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).

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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 Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_006, TRT: 6:31:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, Section A2022\_052\_001\_008, TRT: 8:18:08 ?