

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Nathan-Pulliam, Shirley, 1939-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam,
Dates:	September 22, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:23:33).
Abstract:	Registered nurse and state representative The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (1939 -) worked as a registered nurse since 1962, and was the first Caribbean-born person and first registered nurse elected to Maryland General Assembly, where she sponsored and championed numerous healthcare legislation bills. Nathan-Pulliam was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 22, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_174
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Shirley Ann Nathan-Pulliam was born on May 20, 1939, in the Parish of Trelawny, Jamaica, West Indies. Her mother was a seamstress and retail store buyer and her father worked as a builder and carpenter. She earned her high school diploma from Mico Practicing School in Kingston, Jamaica in 1956. She fulfilled a childhood dream of becoming a nurse when she attended Bootham Park Hospital School of Nursing in Yorkshire England. While studying in England she met her husband, a United States Army soldier, they married and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1960.

From 1962 until 1966 Nathan-Pulliam worked as a licensed practical nurse or LPN in the obstetrics ward at Baltimore City Hospital. From 1966 until 1967 she worked at Baltimore's Bansecor Hospital. After earning her GED in 1969 Nathan-Pulliam enrolled in Baltimore City College and in 1975 graduated with an associate of arts degree in nursing. While a student at BCC, she created the nurses alumni association and became its first president. In 1980 Nathan-Pulliam earned her bachelor's of science degree in nursing from the University of Maryland. In 1987 she received her master's in administrative science from Johns Hopkins University. From 1975 until 1987 Nathan-Pulliam worked at Lutheran Hospital, later known as Liberty Medical Center.

In 1986, she unsuccessfully ran for the Maryland House of Delegates. Then, in 1994, Nathan-Pulliam was elected to represent Baltimore's tenth district, becoming the first Caribbean-born and first African American registered nurse elected to the Maryland General Assembly. Nathan-Pulliam has sponsored and championed numerous healthcare legislation bills. Her first year in office she successfully secured 2.6 million dollars for breast cancer diagnosis and treatment for low-income women.

Nathan-Pulliam is currently CEO of a healthcare education consulting firm and serves as executive director of an

adult daycare facility. She has been the recipient of many honors and awards for her civic and healthcare leadership.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on September 22, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Registered nurse and state representative The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (1939 -) worked as a registered nurse since 1962, and was the first Caribbean-born person and first registered nurse elected to Maryland General Assembly, where she sponsored and championed numerous healthcare legislation bills.

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:

Nathan-Pulliam, Shirley, 1939-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Nathan-Pulliam, Shirley, 1939---Interviews

African American politicians--Maryland--Baltimore.

African American nurses--Maryland--Baltimore.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Maryland. General Assembly

Occupations:

Registered Nurse

State Representative

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers|PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, September 22, 2004. 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 The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Section
A2004_174_001_001, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Legislator and nurse Shirley A. Nathan-Pulliam shares her family background, detailing the lives and personalities of her mother and father, and also discussing her grandfathers. Nathan-Pulliam details her childhood in Jamaica, and talks about the complicated family situation caused by her parents' separation.

African American families.

Mothers--Jamaica.

Fathers--Jamaica.

Childhood and youth--Jamaica.

Divorce.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Section
A2004_174_001_002, TRT: 0:29:58 ?

Legislator and nurse Shirley A. Nathan-Pulliam continues to describe her childhood in Jamaica, where she talks about battling with dyslexia and various health problems, including rheumatic fever and migraines. Nathan-Pulliam then describes her dreams and aspirations as a child, and details her high school experience in Kingston, Jamaica. Nathan-Pulliam explains how her interests in the sciences and England led her to attend nursing school in Yorkshire, England, where she met her husband. Nathan-Pulliam then describes her experience following her husband to the United States, and details her period of adjustment in a new country.

Childhood and youth--Jamaica.

Dyslexia.

African Americans--Education, Secondary--Jamaica--Kingston.

Nursing--Study and teaching.

Foreign study--England.

Moving, Household--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Section
A2004_174_001_003, TRT: 0:29:16 ?

Legislator and nurse Shirley A. Nathan-Pulliam continues to describe her adjustment to the culture of the United States after moving to Baltimore, Maryland, from England with her new husband. Nathan-Pulliam describes her career aspirations, explains her success as a registered nurse in Baltimore, and also describes her decision to obtain a bachelor's of nursing degree and start her own nursing business independent of a hospital. Nathan-Pulliam then explains her decision to enter legislative politics, describing her first unsuccessful run for office in 1986, and her decision to continue her pursuit of office despite her defeat.

Moving, Household--United States.

Nursing--Maryland--Baltimore.

African Americans--Education, Higher--Maryland.

African American business enterprises--Maryland--Baltimore.

Political campaigns--Maryland--Baltimore.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Section
A2004_174_001_004, TRT: 0:29:54 ?

Legislator and nurse Shirley A. Nathan-Pulliam details her service in the Maryland House of Delegates, to which she first won her campaign for in 1994. Nathan-Pulliam emphasizes her commitment to improving health care for minorities in Maryland, as well as her advocacy for the rights of immigrants. Nathan-Pulliam explains that her immigrant and nursing background help her deliver unique characteristics to her constituents, and to the legislative body.

Maryland. General Assembly. House of Delegates.

Health care reform--United States.

Emigration and immigration--United States.

Politics and government.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Section
A2004_174_001_005, TRT: 0:23:10 ?

Legislator and nurse Shirley A. Nathan-Pulliam shares her hopes and concerns for the African American community, describes her adult daycare center, and considers her legislative career, her legacy, and how she would like to be remembered.

Extended Family Adult Day Care, Inc.

Politics and government.