

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. John Cashin

PERSON

Cashin, John L. (John Logan), 1928-2011

Alternative Names: Dr. John Cashin; John L. Cashin;

Life Dates: April 16, 1928-March 23, 2011

Place of Birth: Huntsville, Alabama, USA

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: Civil Rights Activist

Biographical Note

Civil rights activist Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. was born on April 16, 1928 in Huntsville, Alabama to Grace Brandon Cashin, a school principal, and Dr. John Logan Cashin, Sr., a dentist. He and his older brother, Herschel, who were always in the same year at school, were co-valedictorians of their Alabama A&M High School graduating class. He spent two years at Fisk University and then attended Tennessee State University, both located in Nashville, Tennessee. Cashin then received his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee in 1952.

Immediately after Cashin graduated from medical school, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was made a first lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for soldiers stationed near Fountainebleau, France. While in France, Cashin became familiar with a number of African American expatriates, including writer Richard Wright and Ollie Stewart, from the "Chicago Defender."

After two years in the U.S. Army, Cashin returned to the United States, where he became active in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1967, he helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) and was elected as the organization's first party chairman. He led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968, challenging the representative nature of the regular delegation and its loyalty to the national Democratic Party.

Cashin ran for Mayor of Huntsville, and in 1970, he was the NDPA's candidate for governor, where he ran against George Wallace. He received more than sixteen-percent of the votes in that election. Between 1968 and 1974, the NDPA facilitated the election of more than a hundred African Americans to public office in Alabama. In 1974, the Alabama Democratic Party surrendered and integrated their ballot.

Cashin passed away on March 23, 2011 at age 82.

Related Entries

Alabama A&M High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Tennessee State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A. and B.S.

Meharry Medical College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

D.D.S

William Hooper Councill High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

First Lieutenant

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) [MEMBEROF]
[from 1967 to ?]

Co-founder