

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Campbell, Donald, 1935-2017
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell,
Dates:	July 13, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:16:52).
Abstract:	Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Lt. Col. Donald Campbell (1935 - 2017) was a long standing member of the Maricopa County Community College District Board and a retired military veteran. Campbell was the first African American to be accepted into the Arizona Air National Guard and the first African American in the Alabama National Guard. Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 13, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_206
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Donald Russell Campbell was born on September 14, 1935 in Elizabeth, Louisiana to Luvenia and John Estes Campbell. Campbell obtained his A.A. degree from Phoenix College in 1956. Upon completion of Phoenix College, Campbell received his B.A. degree in history and political science with a minor in speech and Spanish from Arizona State University. After graduating from college, Campbell married Elizabeth Hosley on August 20, 1960, and he had two sons, Derek and Darren. In 1961, Campbell attended the University of Arizona School of Law before withdrawing from the program one year later. Campbell was also awarded his Ph.D. in education administration, business and economics from Arizona State University in 1980.

Campbell continued pursuit of his education and served in a variety of roles throughout his career. Starting as a broker and partner for Webb, Williams, and Berry Realty in Phoenix, Arizona, he worked from 1956 to 1964 and began his military service in Europe during the “Berlin Build Up”. In total, Campbell devoted twenty-eight years of service to the Arizona Air National Guard. After his military service in Europe, Campbell returned to the United States and worked for the City of Phoenix in the Human Resources Development Department from 1966 to 1969. There, Campbell became the Director of the Concentrated Employment Program, a jointly sponsored pre-employment training program between the U.S. Department of Labor, the Phoenix Urban League and the Arizona State Employment Office. In 1972, Campbell worked for Arizona State University as the Director of the Center for Services to the Disadvantaged, and later, in 1975, as the Director of Community Services, where he specialized in coordinating special interest courses for the entire Arizona State University service area.

In 1982, Campbell was also elected to the Maricopa County Community College District Board. During his twenty-five years of service on the Board, Campbell served as the Governing Board President in 1987, 1996, 2001 and

2005. He also was elected Governing Board Secretary in 1986, 1995, 2000, 2004 and 2007. Campbell pursued other endeavors including service on the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board, the Consortium of Black Organizations for the Arts, and the NAACP.

Campbell passed away on December 30, 2017 at age 82.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell was conducted by Jacques Lesure on July 13, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and lieutenant colonel Lt. Col. Donald Campbell (1935 - 2017) was a long standing member of the Maricopa County Community College District Board and a retired military veteran. Campbell was the first African American to be accepted into the Arizona Air National Guard and the first African American in the Alabama National Guard.

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:

Campbell, Donald, 1935-2017

Lesure, Jacques (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Campbell, Donald, 1935-2017 --Interviews

African American educators--Interviews.

Education--Arizona--Phoenix.

Military forces(U.S.).

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lieutenant Colonel

HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers

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 Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, July 13, 2007. 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 Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_001, TRT: 0:31:27 ?

Lt. Col. Donald Campbell was born on September 14, 1935 in Elizabeth, Louisiana to Luvenia Fisher Campbell and John E. Campbell, Sr. His paternal grandmother, Catherine Campbell, was born a slave, and freed at thirteen years old. She raised Campbell's father in Westlake, Louisiana. Campbell's mother grew up in Kentwood, Louisiana, and eventually moved to Elizabeth, where Campbell's parents met and married. In Elizabeth, his father worked at a sawmill, and raised hogs and chickens. When the mill closed, Campbell and his nine siblings were sent to live with their paternal grandmother in Westlake, while their father was treated for lung disease in Phoenix, Arizona. Although he died shortly after relocating, he told Campbell's mother of better opportunities in Phoenix, where she moved with Campbell and his siblings. In Phoenix, Campbell's family lived in Matthew Henson Public Housing project, and he attended the Booker T. Washington School and Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School.

African American families--Louisiana.

Public housing.

Education, Urban--Social aspects--United States.

Segregation in education--Arizona.

Poverty--Arizona.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Lt. Col. Donald Campbell attended Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School, and then the Mary McLeod Bethune School in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was influenced by teacher Carl C. Weems. On the weekends, Campbell and his siblings picked cotton, and attended the Tanner Chapel A.M.E. Church. His mother, Luvenia Fisher Campbell, died in 1948, and Campbell and his brother, Roland Campbell, Sr., moved to live with their older sister, Alvie Campbell Bible, in Oakland, California. There, Campbell enrolled at Herbert Hoover Junior High School; while his brother attended McClymonds High School alongside Bill Russell, who became a professional basketball player. Later, Campbell returned to Phoenix to live with another of his brothers, Cloves Campbell, Sr. Campbell worked part time at the Phoenix Memorial Hospital; and, upon graduating from Phoenix Technical High School in 1954, earned an associate's degree at Phoenix College. He became a real estate agent in 1959, and married Doris Campbell the following year.

African American families--Arizona.

Education--Arizona--Phoenix.

Arizona State University--Students.

University of California, Berkeley.

Self-reliant living.

Mothers--Death.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_003, TRT: 0:30:50 ?

Lt. Col. Donald Campbell studied at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona; and, during this time, became the first African American to join the Air National Guard. He went on to work with real estate agents Travis Williams and J.S. Jones, and briefly attended the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson, Arizona. In 1962, Campbell was deployed to the Ramstein Air Base in Germany, where he was assigned to the Alabama Air National Guard, and became the unit's first African American airman. After returning to the United States, Campbell was hired by the City of Phoenix, where he worked on the War on Poverty Commission. He later worked under Director Junius Bowman at the Greater Phoenix Urban League. In the late 1960s, Campbell joined the administration of Arizona State University, where he directed the community service center. Campbell also served on the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board and the board of the Roosevelt Elementary School District. He had two sons, Darren Campbell and Derek Campbell.

Arizona National Guard.

Alabama National Guard.

Military forces(U.S.).

Death--Psychological aspects.

African American couples.

African Americans--Marriage.

Poverty--United States--History--20th century.

Children--Death.

United States--Armed Forces--African American officers.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_004, TRT: 0:26:45 ?

Lt. Col. Donald Campbell was the director of community services at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. There, he developed service programs and nontraditional courses, including a class on gold panning. He also taught introductory management courses. During this time, Campbell earned a master's degree in higher education administration, and a Ph.D. degree in adult education. He also trained to become a lieutenant colonel at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, and became an affirmative action officer of the Air National Guard in 1974. Campbell served from 1972 to 1980 on the board of the Roosevelt Elementary School District in Phoenix, Arizona, where he developed special education facilities. He was elected to the Maricopa County Community College District board in 1982; and, from 1989, served as the interim vice provost of Arizona State University's satellite campus in Glendale, Arizona. Campbell also talks about his real estate investments, and the importance of junior colleges.

Arizona State University--Faculty.

Arizona School Boards Association.

Maricopa County (Ariz.). Community College District.

Community college administrators--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Lt. Col. Donald Campbell, Section A2007_206_001_005, TRT: 0:18:30 ?

Lt. Col. Donald Campbell worked with the Arizona Project Challenge, a federally funded program for teenage high school dropouts. At the project's facility in Queen Creek, Arizona, students took part in a four-month U.S. military training program operated by the National Guard. In addition, Campbell was a member of the NAACP, the American Society for Training and

Development and the board of the Maricopa County Community College District. He provides advice to future generations, and describes how he would like to be remembered. Campbell concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.

High school dropouts--Arizona.

Project Challenge (Ariz.).