

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable David A. Paterson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Paterson, David A.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson,
Dates:	April 11, 2017 and February 15, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (6:24:06).
Abstract:	Political leader David A. Paterson (1954-) was the first non-white New York State Senate minority leader, as well as the first African American lieutenant governor of New York, and both the first African American and legally blind governor of New York. Paterson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 11, 2017 and February 15, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_055
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader David A. Paterson was born on May 20, 1954, in Brooklyn, New York to Basil Paterson and Portia Paterson. An infection left Paterson legally blind shortly after his birth, so his family moved to Hempstead, New York so that Paterson could attend school without being required to be in special education classes. Paterson went on to earn his B.A. degree in history from Columbia University in New York in 1977. In 1983, Paterson earned his J.D. degree from Hofstra Law School in Hempstead.

After graduating, Paterson worked for the Queens District Attorney's Office. In 1985, Paterson joined the campaign staff for David Dinkins' third campaign for Borough President of Manhattan. That same year, Paterson was elected to the New York State Senate as the youngest state senator in Albany, serving on the State Senate until 2006. In 2002, Paterson was elected as the first African American New York State Senate Minority leader. In 2006, Paterson stepped down from the Senate to run as the first African American lieutenant governor of New York, which he won by a landslide with candidate Eliot Spitzer. In 2008, Spitzer resigned from the position of governor amid a scandal, making Paterson the first African American and legally blind governor of New York in 2008. As governor, Paterson reduced New York's budget deficit by \$40 billion and increased the welfare allowance for needy individuals for the first time in 20 years. Paterson also introduced legislation that would later end discrimination against same-sex couples in New York. After leaving office, Paterson hosted a radio show for New York station WOR from 2011 to 2012. He also taught government as an adjunct professor at New York University. In 2016, Paterson joined Stifel, Nichoulas & Company as a director of investment.

In 2007, Paterson received the John Jay Award, which is reserved for distinguished alumni, from Columbia University. In 2014, he served as the chairman of the New York Democratic Party, as well as on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Paterson also chaired the board of the Achilles Track Club.

Paterson has two children; a stepdaughter, Ashley, and a son, Alex.

David A. Paterson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 15, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson was conducted by Harriette Cole on April 11, 2017 and February 15, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader David A. Paterson (1954-) was the first non-white New York State Senate minority leader, as well as the first African American lieutenant governor of New York, and both the first African American and legally blind governor of New York.

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:

Paterson, David A.

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Paterson, David A.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Political Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 David A. Paterson, April 11, 2017 and February 15, 2017. 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 David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_001, TRT: 1:33:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_002, TRT: 2:29:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_003, TRT: 3:31:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_004, TRT: 4:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_005, TRT: 5:28:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_001_006, TRT: 6:20:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_007, TRT: 7:30:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_008, TRT: 8:28:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_009, TRT: 9:28:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_010, TRT: 10:31:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_011, TRT: 11:30:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_012, TRT: 12:27:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable David A. Paterson, Section
A2017_055_002_013, TRT: 13:33:20 ?