

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Webb, Gwendolyn Cook, 1949-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb,
Dates:	May 5, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:55:20).
Abstract:	Civil rights activist Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb (1949 -) was the second African American female officer for the Birmingham Police Department and founded the human rights organization, Food Soldier International Webb was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 5, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_095
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights activist Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb was born on February 15, 1949 in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1963, Webb was arrested when she marched with hundreds of local students in The Birmingham's Children's Crusade, which took place following the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. She later graduated from Western-Jackson Olin High School in Birmingham, Alabama in 1967, and went on to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 1975, Webb joined the Birmingham Police Department as the second African American female hired by the law enforcement agency. The following year, she began working in the business services unit handling fraudulent financial activities. In 1979, Webb was assigned to the Birmingham Jail. She then served as a team investigative officer for James K. Baker, the City Attorney of Birmingham, in 1980. Webb subsequently served as a security staff member for Richard Arrington, the mayor of Birmingham, and became a personal security officer for the mayor and his family. In 1985, the documentary *In The Name of Love* was released. The film paid homage to the interracial marriage of Webb and her late husband, Lieutenant William Webb, who was a white officer in the Birmingham Police Department. In 2000, she began serving as administrative assistant to Gwendolyn Sykes, a member of the Birmingham City Council. Webb then began working as a code enforcement officer for Birmingham Public Works.

An active participant in her community, Webb was involved in establishing the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, the Birmingham Civil Rights Heritage Trail, and the Birmingham Black Radio Museum. Webb also served as vice president for The Travel Scene travel agency, and founded the charity and human rights organization, Foot Soldier International in 2012.

Webb's participation in the Civil Rights Movement has been widely documented. In 2004, the documentary *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, which featured Webb and won an Academy Award for "Best Documentary." Her participation in the movement has also been documented by the Birmingham Civil Rights

Heritage Trail and the Birmingham Black Radio Museum.

Webb has one daughter, Theresa.

Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 5, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb was conducted by Denise Gines on May 5, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civil rights activist Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb (1949 -) was the second African American female officer for the Birmingham Police Department and founded the human rights organization, Food Soldier International

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:

Webb, Gwendolyn Cook, 1949-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Webb, Gwendolyn Cook, 1949- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, May 5, 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 Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_001, TRT: 1:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_002, TRT: 2:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_003, TRT: 3:29:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_004, TRT: 4:29:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_005, TRT: 5:28:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, Section
A2017_095_001_006, TRT: 6:27:59 ?