

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Bettye Davis

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Davis, Bettye, 1938-2018
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 22, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:14:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Political official Bettye Davis (1938 - 2018) was the first African American woman elected to the Alaska House of Representatives, and the first African American to serve in the Alaska Senate. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 22, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_102
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political official Bettye Davis was born on May 17, 1938 in Homer, Louisiana to Rosyland Daniel Ivory and Dan Ivory. She graduated from Elliot High School in 1956, and received her nursing diploma from Saint Anthony School of Nursing in 1961. Davis went on to earn her B.S. degree in social work from Grambling State University in 1971, and she later completed graduate level course work in family counseling at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Davis worked as the assistant director of the San Bernardino YWCA in San Bernardino, California from 1971 to 1972. She then moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where she was hired as a psychiatric nurse and social worker at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. In 1975, Davis became a child care specialist at the Department of Family and Youth Services in Anchorage, and she later assumed the role of foster care coordinator. Davis was elected as executive director of the Anchorage School Board in 1982, a position she held until 1989. She became the first African American member of the Alaska House of Representatives in 1991, representing the fourteenth and twenty-first districts. Davis was elected to a second term on the Anchorage School Board in 1998. That same year, she was appointed to the State Board of Education by Alaska Governor Tony Knowles. In 2001, Davis became the first African American member of the Alaska State Senate, where she represented the K District until 2013. Following the end of her term, Davis was elected to serve a third term on the Anchorage School Board.

Davis received numerous awards, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation of Alaska Humanitarian Award, the Alaska Black Caucus Presidents Award, and the Wells Fargo Bank CheckPoint Alaska Award. In 2010, Davis was the recipient of the Pioneer Woman of the Year Award and the Celebrate Liberty Award from the Alaska Civil Liberties Union. That same year, she was also inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame. Davis served on the NAACP Anchorage branch board of directors from 1978 to 1982. She also served on the board of directors for the March of Dimes, the Anchorage chapter of the YWCA, and Women in Government.

She had two children, Anthony and Sonja, and four grandchildren.

Bettye Davis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 22, 2018.

Davis passed away on December 2, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 22, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political official Bettye Davis (1938 - 2018) was the first African American woman elected to the Alaska House of Representatives, and the first African American to serve in the Alaska Senate.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Davis, Bettye, 1938-2018

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Bettye, 1938-2018 --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Political Official

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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## 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 Bettye Davis, May 22, 2018. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis, Section A2018\_102\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis, Section A2018\_102\_001\_002,  
TRT: 2:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis, Section A2018\_102\_001\_003,  
TRT: 3:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis, Section A2018\_102\_001\_004,  
TRT: 4:28:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Bettye Davis, Section A2018\_102\_001\_005,  
TRT: 5:19:22 ?