

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Johnny Ford

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ford, Johnny, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford,
Dates:	April 25, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:06:15).
Abstract:	Political leader Johnny Ford (1942 -) served eight non-consecutive terms as mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama between 1972 and 2016. He also co-founded the National Conference of Black Mayors and served as state representative of the 82nd District of Alabama from 1998 to 2004. Ford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 25, 2019, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_033
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader Johnny Ford was born on August 23, 1942 in Midway, Alabama to Bertha and Willie Patterson, and was raised by his Aunt Tennessee Ford and Uncle Charlie Benjamin Ford. He graduated from Tuskegee Institute High School and received his B.A. degree from Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1964. Later, Ford received his M.P.A. degree from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama in 1977.

After graduation, Ford moved to New York City and worked for the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where he served as a recruiter in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn and later became director of all Boy Scout activities in the South Bronx. In 1967, Ford worked as a strategist on the presidential campaign of Robert Kennedy. After Kennedy's assassination in 1968, Ford returned to Tuskegee, Alabama and began working as director of the Model Cities Program. From 1970 to 1972, he served as assistant director of the Multi-Racial Corporation and managed Fred Gray's campaign for the Alabama House of Representatives. During this period, Ford also worked in the Montgomery office of the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure compliance with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1972, Ford was elected Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama as its first black mayor. That same year, Ford co-founded the Southern Conference of Black Mayors, which later evolved into the National Conference of Black Mayors, incorporated in 1974. Ford later established the World Conference of Mayors, Inc. in 1984, which convened mayors from the U.S., Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Ford was unseated by Ronald D. Williams in the 1996 Tuskegee mayoral election; and, in 1998, he was elected state representative of the 82nd District from Macon County, Alabama. In 2004, Ford resigned from the state legislature and was re-elected as Mayor of Tuskegee. He was later defeated by Omar Neal in the 2008 mayoral election in Tuskegee. In 2012, Ford was then re-elected Mayor of Tuskegee and was sworn into an eighth non-consecutive term as mayor. In 2016, Lawrence Tony Haygood unseated Ford and was elected Mayor of Tuskegee.

Ford served as president of the Alabama League of Municipalities and president of the National Conference of

Black Mayors. He was also a member of the Alabama Foreign Trade Commission, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Ford was a former chair of the National Unity Alliance and was founding president of the Tuskegee Optimist Club. He also received an honorary doctorate of laws degree from Alabama A&M University in 2004.

Johnny Ford was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 25, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 25, 2019, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader Johnny Ford (1942 -) served eight non-consecutive terms as mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama between 1972 and 2016. He also co-founded the National Conference of Black Mayors and served as state representative of the 82nd District of Alabama from 1998 to 2004.

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:

Ford, Johnny, 1942-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ford, Johnny, 1942- --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 Johnny Ford, April 25, 2019. 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 Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_001,
TRT: 1:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_002,
TRT: 2:28:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_003,
TRT: 3:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_004,
TRT: 4:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_006,
TRT: 6:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_007,
TRT: 7:30:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_008,
TRT: 8:30:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Johnny Ford, Section A2019_033_001_009,
TRT: 9:11:44 ?