

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Delbert W. Mullens

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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>	Mullens, Delbert Wesley, 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 20, 2022
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:25:05).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Entrepreneur Delbert Mullens (1944 -) is the founder of Flint Coatings and Wesley Industries and co-founder of Proteus Trade and Commodities, Wesley Financial, Wesley Consulting, the Wesley Group (USA) LLC, and the National Association of Black Automotive Suppliers. Mullens was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 20, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2022_032
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entrepreneur Delbert Mullens was born on November 14, 1944, in New York, New York, to Edythe and Harry Mullens. He received his B.S. degree in history and English in 1968 from Tennessee State University, in Nashville, Tennessee, and his M.S. degree in psychological counseling in 1974 from the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo). He also studied law at the University of Detroit School of Law and later completed a business executive training program in 1992 at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business, in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Mullens worked as a salesman at Bethlehem Steel from 1975 to 1981, before founding Flint Coatings, an automotive supply company, in 1983. Subsequently, Mullens founded the holding company Wesley Industries, Inc., in 1985 and Yale Power Coating in 1986 while growing his enterprise by also purchasing New Haven Foundry in New Haven, Michigan in 1990. In 2002, *Black Enterprise* named Wesley Industries the fastest growing black business in America. In 2002, Mullens and his son Dorian Mullens expanded into defense manufacturing by acquiring Arnold Defense and Electronics. In 2015, Mullens also co-founded Proteus Trade and Commodities, Inc., which, in 2016, partnered with Venezia Food and Beverages in India. Also, a golf course and resort hotel in Raisen were added to Mullens's company portfolio. Mullens is also the co-founder of Wesley Financial, Wesley Consulting, and the Wesley Group (USA) LLC.

Mullens is a lifetime member of the Tennessee State University Alumni Association and the NAACP. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and one of the founders of the National Association of Black Automotive Suppliers. From 2008 to 2012, he served as a director of Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs, the foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International. He is also a former member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Michigan Minority Business Development Council and former chair of the dean's advisory council of SUNY Buffalo. In 1998, Mullens was elected to a three-year term as a trustee of SUNY

Buffalo. He also served as a guest lecturer at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business.

Mullens was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Michigan Commerce Department and among the Top 100 Alumni of the Twentieth Century by Tennessee State University. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Black MBA Association. His businesses have been named Business of the Year and Supplier of the Year by the National Minority Business Development Council and Business of the Year by the Michigan Commerce Department and *Black Enterprise*. SUNY Buffalo's "Thinking Outside the Box" scholarship award was formed in his honor.

Mullens lives in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He has two children, Dorian Mullens and Mandy Mullens-Williams, and five grandchildren.

Delbert Mullens was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 20, 2022.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Delbert W. Mullens was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 20, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entrepreneur Delbert Mullens (1944 -) is the founder of Flint Coatings and Wesley Industries and co-founder of Proteus Trade and Commodities, Wesley Financial, Wesley Consulting, the Wesley Group (USA) LLC, and the National Association of Black Automotive Suppliers.

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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:

Mullens, Delbert Wesley, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Mullens, Delbert Wesley, 1944---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:

Entrepreneur

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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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 Delbert W. Mullens, March 20, 2022. 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 Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Delbert W. Mullens, Section A2022\_032\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:06 ?