

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lenny Springs

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Springs, Lenny, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lenny Springs,
Dates:	July 11, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:00:20).
Abstract:	Bank executive Lenny Springs (1947 -) was the Director of Supplier Diversity for Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. In that role, he promoted public awareness and instituted progress programs for community advancement and community reinvestment. Springs has also worked on small and minority business and education advancement programs. Springs was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 11, 2005, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_159
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Business executive and former member of the NAACP's national board, Lenny Fitzgerald Springs, was born on April 25, 1947, in Edgefield, South Carolina to Leonard Springs and Mildred Morgan. Graduating with a B.S. degree from Voorhees College in 1968, he began his career as project director of the Greenville, South Carolina Urban League from 1976 to 1979, and went on to serve as its deputy director from 1979 to 1982 and executive director from 1982 to 1983.

In 1983, he moved into a role as communication relations officer at Southern Bank, and in 1985, he joined First Union Corporation as senior vice president of the Corporate Relations Division. In April of 2002, after the merger of First Union and Wachovia Corporation the previous year, Wachovia named Springs as director of supplier diversity. In that role, he promotes public awareness and institutes progress programs for community advancement and community reinvestment. Springs has also worked on small and minority business and education advancement programs.

Involved in many other organizations, Springs serves on the board of directors of Boy Scouts Southern Region. He is vice chairman of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. Still active in the NAACP, he is chairman of its Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees. He is past president, founder, and board member of the Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter of 100 Black Men of America. He has served on the boards of Central Carolina Urban League, the Southeast Regional National Alliance of Business, the Business Policy Review Council, Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc., Florida Memorial College, Elizabeth City State University, South Carolina State University Foundation and Spirit Square. He is past president of the Voorhees College National Alumni Association and the National Urban Bankers Association, and has served on the board of visitors at Barber-Scotia College and Johnson C. Smith University.

Springs was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America in 1973 and 1979 and received the NAACP's Legal Award for South Carolina in 1980. The Greenville Branch of the NAACP honored him with an award in 1984. He also served as a sergeant in the United States Army for two years and received two Bronze Stars and an Air Medal for his acts of heroism in the line of duty.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lenny Springs was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 11, 2005, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Bank executive Lenny Springs (1947 -) was the Director of Supplier Diversity for Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. In that role, he promoted public awareness and instituted progress programs for community advancement and community reinvestment. Springs has also worked on small and minority business and education advancement programs.

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:

Springs, Lenny, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Springs, Lenny, 1947---Interviews

African American bankers--Interviews

African American executives--Interviews

African American families--South Carolina

African Americans--Genealogy

Segregation in education--South Carolina

Tillman, Benjamin R. (Benjamin Ryan), 1847-1918

Thurmond, Strom, 1902-2003

South Carolina--Race relations

Voorhees College

Vietnam War, 1961-1975

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Jarrett, Vernon, 1921-

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Wachovia Bank and Trust Company

Occupations:

Bank Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Lenny Springs, July 11, 2005. 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 Lenny Springs, Section A2005_159_001_001, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Lenny F. Springs talks about his parents' backgrounds. Springs then details events surrounding his uncle's involvement with the NAACP in South Carolina in the 1950s. He then recalls the sensorial aspects of his childhood. Lastly, Springs describes his work ethic and competitive nature during his teen years.

African American bankers--Interviews.

African American executives--Interviews.

African American families--South Carolina.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Segregation in education--South Carolina.

Tillman, Benjamin R. (Benjamin Ryan), 1847-1918.

Thurmond, Strom, 1902-2003.

South Carolina--Race relations.

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Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Jarrett, Vernon, 1921-.

Video Oral History Interview with Lenny Springs, Section A2005_159_001_002, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Lenny F. Springs talks about his formal education in segregationist South Carolina. Springs then discusses the racist reputations of South Carolina governors, Benjamin "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman and Strom Thurmond. He then talks about the racial inequity during his high school years, receiving discarded supplies from the white schools. Lastly, Springs describes race relations in rural South Carolina in the 1960s.

Video Oral History Interview with Lenny Springs, Section A2005_159_001_003, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Lenny F. Springs talks about his move to Atlantic City, New Jersey after high school. Springs then recalls his experiences and mentors at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina, and his subsequent tour of duty in the Army in Vietnam. Lastly, Springs discusses his path after his military experience and his decision to pursue a career in banking.

Video Oral History Interview with Lenny Springs, Section A2005_159_001_004, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Lenny F. Springs details his role in the banking industry and the need for economic empowerment in the African American community. Springs then discusses his involvement with the national NAACP and Vernon Jarret's brainchild, ACT-SO. He then talks about his legacy, family, and how he would like to be remembered.