

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers

PERSON

Flowers, Alfred K.

Alternative Names: Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers;

Life Dates: December 29, 1947-

Place of Birth: Kinston, North Carolina, USA

Residence: San Antonio, TX

Occupations: Major General

Biographical Note

Major General Alfred K. Flowers was born on December 29, 1947 in Kinston, North Carolina to Annie Miller, a chef and Monroe Flowers, an industrial worker. He was raised by his grandparents who instilled in him a foundation of morals, ethical values and integrity. Flowers graduated from Jones High School in 1965 and enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of seventeen.

After completing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, Texas, Flowers was assigned as a supply warehouseman at Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota. In 1967, he served as an air transportation specialist in Da Nang AB, Vietnam. Two years later, Flowers was reassigned to Norton AFB in California, where he met his wife, Ida, who was also serving in the Air Force. After they married, she was transferred to Clark AFB in the Philippines and Flowers secured a joint-spousal assignment to be with her. In 1971, he was appointed to accounting specialist and served seven years in this position. Flowers received his A.A. degree from Thomas Edison University and his B.S. degree from Southern Illinois University. He earned his M.A. degree in 1976 from Ball State University. In 1978, he attended officer training school at the Medina Annex, Lackland AFB and was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served as a budget officer at several Air Force bases before receiving his M.S. degree from Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1994. Flowers served as Chief of Budget at Headquarters ACC on Langley AFB and in 1999, he served as director of Budget Programs for the Department of the Air Force. Flowers served as commander of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools at Air University on Maxwell AFB and commander of the Second Air Force on Keesler AFB. In 2009, he was appointed as the deputy assistant secretary of budget in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller in Washington, D.C. In 2012, after forty-six years of service, Flowers retired from the United States Air

Force, making him the longest-serving airman in Air Force history and the longest serving African American in the history of the United States Department of Defense.

Throughout Flowers' long career with the United States Air Force, he received much recognition including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Flowers served on the board of directors for the Army Air Force Exchange Service, the Air Force Aid Society and the Air Force Services Agency. Major General (R) Flowers was inducted into the Air Education And Training Command Order of The Sword on April 6, 2012, making him the 244th Air Force inductee since 1967. Flowers is married to Ida M. Flowers and they have one son, Lieutenant Colonel Alfred K. Flowers, Jr.

Alfred K. Flowers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 28, 2012.

Related Entries

Phillips Crossroad Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Jones High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

H.S. Diploma

Thomas Edison University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

A.A.

Southern Illinois University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Ball State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

National Defense College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

United States Air Force [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19650805 to 20120101]

Major General

Army Air Force Exchange Service [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to 2001]

Board of Directors

Air Force Aid Society [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to 2011]

Board of Directors

Air Force Services Agency [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to 2011]

Board of Directors, Committee Chair (finance)

Defense Community Service [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to 2011]

Board of Directors, Committee (finance)

San Antonio Fisher Houses [MEMBEROF]
[from 2012 to ?]

Board Member