

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable James B. Lewis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lewis, James B. (James Beliven), 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis,
Dates:	August 25, 2015
Bulk Dates:	2015
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:24:03).
Abstract:	State treasurer The Honorable James B. Lewis (1947 -) was the first African American to be appointed and elected three times to a statewide office in New Mexico, and the first African American to be elected to a statewide office. Lewis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 25, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2015_004
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

State government official James B. Lewis was born on November 30, 1947 in Roswell, New Mexico, to Dorris Ward and William Reagor. Lewis graduated in 1966 from Gallup High School in Gallup, New Mexico and attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, where he earned his B.S. degree in education. After serving as a military policeman, and as an administrator at the University of Albuquerque, he attended the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, where he earned his M.A. degree in public administration in 1977. Lewis went on to earn his A.S. degree in business administration from the National College of Business in 1980.

Lewis worked as a white collar crime investigator in the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office before being elected Bernalillo County Treasurer in 1982. He was then appointed as State Treasurer of New Mexico in 1985 after the incumbent Treasurer resigned. Lewis then won the election for the state treasurer position in 1986. In 1991, Lewis was appointed Chief of Staff for Governor Bruce King. Lewis held state level administrative positions in the New Mexico State Land Office and the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, before becoming City Administrator for Rio Rancho, New Mexico in 1996. Lewis became Assistant Secretary of Energy in 1999 for the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. He ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Albuquerque in 2001, but was offered the position of chief operating officer for the City. Lewis would go on to serve as the chief administrative officer for Albuquerque in 2004, before winning re-election as New Mexico State Treasurer. Lewis instituted various business practices while in office, serving two consecutive terms.

Lewis received numerous awards for his public service at the city, county, state, and federal levels. He was inducted into the New Mexico African American Hall of Fame, the NAACP Albuquerque Chapter Hall of Fame, and received the Legion of Honor Award from the Kiwanis Club of Albuquerque in 2005. He was named one of New Mexico's 100 Influential Power Brokers in 2008, and received the Jesse M. Unruh Award in 2011, the highest honor awarded by the National Association of State Treasurers. Lewis was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and served as president of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers, as well as

the National Association of State Treasurers.

Lewis is a widower, and has four children.

James B. Lewis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 25, 2015.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 25, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. State treasurer The Honorable James B. Lewis (1947 -) was the first African American to be appointed and elected three times to a statewide office in New Mexico, and the first African American to be elected to a statewide office.

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:

Lewis, James B. (James Beliven), 1947-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lewis, James B. (James Beliven), 1947---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

State Treasurer

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 James B. Lewis, August 25, 2015. 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 James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_001, TRT: 1:32:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_002,
TRT: 2:29:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_003,
TRT: 3:31:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_004,
TRT: 4:31:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_005,
TRT: 5:30:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_006,
TRT: 6:30:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_007,
TRT: 7:30:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James B. Lewis, Section A2015_004_001_008,
TRT: 8:46:03 ?