

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard

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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>	Howard, Constance, 1942-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 20, 2000
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:17:25).
<b>Abstract:</b>	State representative The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard (1942 - ) was the Democratic State Central Committeeperson from the 1st Congressional District, and held a seat in the Illinois General Assembly. Howard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 20, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2000_052
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Constance “Connie” Arlene Howard was born on December 14, 1942 on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. The daughter of Henry and Thelma Bozeman, she was the second of four children. Howard attended James Wadsworth Elementary School and Hyde Park High School before enrolling at Chicago Teacher’s College, now Chicago State University. In 1963, Howard married Phillip Howard, Jr. and the following year a son, Phillip III, was born. Howard spent much of her time over the next decade actively participating in the political campaigns of former Illinois Attorney General and State Comptroller Roland Burris and others. In 1983, Howard decided to run for office herself.

Howard was elected Democratic State Central Committeeperson from the 1st Congressional District, a position she still holds today. In 1994, while campaigning for re-election, Howard also decided to run for a seat in the Illinois General Assembly. She won both races.

As a State Representative, Howard serves as Chairperson of the Committees on Computer Technology and Children & Youth. She also serves on the Committees of Appropriations-Higher Education, Labor & Commerce and Higher Education. A member of the Chicago Urban League, Operation PUSH and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Howard has been honored by the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Chicago Teacher’s Union and numerous other organizations.

Howard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 20, 2000.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard was conducted by Adele Hodge on July 20, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. State representative The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard (1942 - ) was the Democratic State Central Committeeperson from the 1st Congressional District, and held a seat in the Illinois General Assembly.

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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:

Howard, Constance, 1942-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Howard, Constance, 1942---Interviews

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African American legislators--Illinois--Chicago--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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Illinois

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## Occupations:

State Representative

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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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 The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, July 20, 2000. 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 The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, Section A2000\_052\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:06 ?

Constance Howard describes her family background. She was born on December 14, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. Her mother, Thelma Bozeman was born in Chicago, but raised in Vicksburg, Mississippi where she met Howard's father, Henry Bozeman. They married and had four children. When Howard was a

child, her father, a factory worker, left the family for a period due to alcoholism. Howard's mother raised the children in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago, working at entry-level jobs as well as at the post office to support the family. Howard talks about her grandparents, her childhood personality, and her grade school years. She graduated from Hyde Park High School.

African American families--History.

Childhood--Illinois--Chicago.

African American neighborhoods--Woodlawn (Chicago, Ill.).

African Americans--Education.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, Section A2000\_052\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:14 ?

Constance Howard decided early on that she wanted to be a teacher. After graduating from Hyde Park High School, she enrolled at Chicago Teachers College. Howard was not politically active until after her college years. In 1973, she was violently attacked with other protesters during a march to Chicago's Marquette Park. Howard's political engagement increased throughout the 1970s, and she worked on the campaigns of HistoryMakers Roland Burris and Carol Moseley Braun. In 1983, Howard was appointed as a Democratic state central committeeman in Illinois. In 1993, she decided to run for a position on the Illinois General Assembly. Howard talks about issues she has worked on as an Illinois State Representative since 1995, including expungement and reform of the Illinois DCFS. She also talks about how she met her husband, the birth of her son, and the general population's ignorance of the electoral process.

African Americans--Political activism.

Moseley-Braun, Carol, 1947-

Burris, Roland W.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago.

Illinois. General Assembly. House of Representatives.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, Section A2000\_052\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:35 ?

Constance Howard describes her role in the Illinois General Assembly. As a state representative, Howard has worked to improve funding in schools, and to secure parole and reprieve for prisoners, including people on death row she believes to be innocent. In the General Assembly, Howard's colleagues included William B. Black, Wyvetter Young, and Michael Madigan, as well as fellow HistoryMakers Emil Jones and Arthur Turner. Howard is passionate about increasing computer literacy throughout the State of Illinois. Howard talks about the prison-industrial complex and the legislative process. She also reflects upon her legacy and values.

Illinois. General Assembly. House of Representatives.

Prisons--Law and legislation--United States.

Education--Computers literacy.

Education--Finance--Law and legislation.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, Section A2000\_052\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Constance Howard joined the Illinois General Assembly in 1995. She remembers her excitement at being elected and the lessons she learned in her early days as an Illinois State Representative. Howard talks about how public

office has impacted her personal life and her relationships with her husband and grandchildren. She also talks about improving her district, reducing paper usage in Springfield, her administrative staff budget, and civics education in the classroom.

African American politicians--Families--Illinois--Chicago.

Legislators--Strategic planning.

Education--Strategic planning.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Constance "Connie" Howard, Section A2000\_052\_001\_005, TRT: 0:14:30 ?

Constance Howard narrates her photographs.

Photographs.