

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James Forstall

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key Oral History project

Interview # EG-A-L-2016-055

James C. Forstall, one of the first employees at Sangamon State University, and also a key administrator at Lincoln Land Community College, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: November 21, 2015, November 23, 2015, April 20, 2016

Residence: Forstall home, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Esarey, ALPL oral history volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:15 + 1:36 + 1:00 + 0:05 / 1.25 + 1.6 + 1.0 + 0.08 = 3.93 hrs.

Session 1: Moving to Springfield, National Guard, Democratic National Convention, move to Sangamon State University

Session 2: Lincoln Land Community College, Sangamon State life on campus, working with Robert Spencer, emergence of importance of Public Affairs, Building of Campus

Session 3: Role of Diversity in higher education, Difficulties of working as a person of color

Session 4: Remarks on leadership role in Military Officer Association and Illini Club

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 14, 2016.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

James C. Forstall, *Education is Key*, EG-A-L-2015-055

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Born in March, 1931 in New Orleans, James C. Forstall served in the U. S. Army from December, 1950 until his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1971. He served in South Vietnam, Italy and a number of other countries for over 20 years, and an additional two years as an advisor in the Illinois National Guard, from 1968 to 1970. Forstall began his career in education as an administrative assistant in higher education in 1970 after being recruited by Robert Spencer, the first President of Sangamon State University. Forstall received his Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1972. In 1974 he was hired as Vice President of Student Affairs at the new Lincoln Land Community College, working with President Robert Poorman. He served as the Associate Director for Academic Affairs at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, providing educational programs for minority students and all students seeking educational opportunities. He received his PhD in Higher Education from Illinois State University in 1984. He is the former president of the Springfield Chapter of Frontiers International and remains an active advocate for minority programs. Active in the Catholic Church, he received the Magnificent Award from the Catholic Diocese of Springfield for outstanding service to God and neighbors in 2013. Because of his many years as a community leader in the Springfield, Illinois, Forstall was a finalist for the Copley First Citizen award in 2015, an honor bestowed on outstanding community leaders. Jim passed away on Friday, March 3rd, 2017.

This interview focuses on Forstall's experiences both at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) and Lincoln Land Community College early in the history of both of those institutions. James also addresses his involvement in community organizations and charities in Springfield over the past several decades.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Higher Education in Illinois; Early history of Sangamon State University and Lincoln Land Community College; Springfield history in the 1970's, 1980's; History of Illinois Board of Higher Education; minority roles in 1970's to present in education; Democratic National Convention, 1968; Springfield, Illinois community program development for minorities.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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