

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jeri Frederick

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft - ERA Oral History project

Interview # ISE-A-L-2013-004

Jeri Frederick, a young college student at Sangamon State University and supporter of NOW during the ERA fight in Springfield, IL from 1980 to 1982, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft - ERA* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 13, 2013 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Date: Mar 1, 2013 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Patty Maynor, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 92 pgs. Total Time: 1:52 + 2:50 / 1.87 + 2.83 = 4.7 hrs.

Session 1: Growing up in Southern View (Springfield) and early career

Session 2: The ERA fight, from 1980 to 1982, from the perspective of IL NOW

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 30, 2013.

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

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Abstract

Jeri Frederick, *ERA Fight in Illinois*, ISE-A-L-2013-004

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jeri Frederick was born on April 5, 1956 in Springfield, Illinois and grew up in nearby Southern View. She attended public schools, including Southeast High School in Springfield and graduated in 1974. Jeri discusses her childhood experiences in detail, including the political and social climate in Springfield during the Vietnam and Watergate era. She moved to the west coast for a while after graduating, then returned to Illinois, holding a variety of jobs. By 1980 she was back in Springfield and began attending college at Sangamon State University.

It was also in 1980 that Jeri found employment at the Springfield office of the National Organization for Women (NOW) at a time when NOW was leading an effort to get the Illinois state legislature to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). For the next two years, Jeri was heavily involved with those activities, traveling to the 1980 Republican Convention in Detroit to protest for ERA and attending rallies in Chicago and Springfield, where many nationally recognized leaders in the ERA movement were also in attendance. She recounts the events of 1982, during the last-ditch and unsuccessful efforts to convince the legislature to pass the ERA. NOW's efforts nationwide also failed, and the ten year battle to pass the amendment came to an end.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Equal Rights Amendment; fight for ERA passage in Illinois; life in Southern View, Illinois; Southeast High School; National Organization for Women; Phyllis Schlafly; integration in Springfield schools in the 1960s; George Ryan (Speaker of the Illinois House); Sangamon State University; ERA hunger strikers;

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