

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rudy Davenport

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2004-018

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Born in Georgia, raised in Chicago, Rudy Davenport worked for the State of Illinois and was an active volunteer with the NAACP and Habitat for Humanity. He was a plaintiff in the Springfield voting rights case that resulted in changing the structure of Springfield city government.

Interview date(s):	March 30 and April 1, 2004
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassettes
Interviewer:	Bettie Allen
Transcription by:	The Tape Transcription Center
Edited by:	Marian Goza, Christy Barcus, Cheryl Pence
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Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract

Rudy Davenport Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

Biographical Information and Synopsis: Born in Crawfordsville, Georgia in 1928, Rudy Davenport and his family moved to Chicago the next year. He grew up in Chicago, graduated from Roosevelt University, and moved to Springfield in 1966. He worked for the State of Illinois and became a member of the NAACP, serving as president for several years. He was one of the plaintiffs in the voting rights case that changed the structure of Springfield city government. When Habitat for Humanity began to build houses in Springfield, he became an active volunteer and served as president. He discusses the civil rights movement, and the inequalities present in the American educational system and NAACP efforts to alleviate the problem locally.

Topics Covered: Springfield voting rights lawsuit; NAACP; Habitat for Humanity; civil rights movement; affirmative action; reparations; racial inequities in education; southern migration to Chicago

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