

A Guide to the Kenneth L. Jones Papers, 1966-1972 SC 0310

Kenneth L. Jones Papers

1966-1972



Title Statement

A Guide to the Kenneth L. Jones Papers, 1966-1972 SC 0310

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0310

Unit Date

1966-1972

Language

English .

Abstract

The Kenneth L. Jones Papers, 1966-1972, comprising photographs and printed ephemera, document Jones's time as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity, and as a civic leader in Staunton, Virginia.

Creator

Jones, Kenneth L. (Kenneth Lee), 1905-2004

source

Rolling Hills Antique Mall

Extent

0.16 cubic feet 2 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Purchased from Rolling Hills Antique Mall in February 2020.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Kenneth L. Jones Papers, 1966-1972, SC 0310, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Kenneth L. Jones (1905-2004) was an African American business owner and civic leader from Staunton, Virginia. Jones graduated in 1923 from Staunton's Booker T. Washington Junior High School. He received his bachelor of science degree from West Virginia State College. After graduating, Jones worked as an educator in Oklahoma as well as at the Rosenwald School in Waynesboro. He was married to Emma Taylor Jones (1908-1958).

After receiving his funeral director's license in 1945, Jones established Kenneth L. Jones Funeral Home and served as its owner/operator until 1994.

Jones was particularly active in his local community and was a member of numerous civic organizations including the Staunton Interracial Commission, Board of Directors of the United Negro College Fund of Virginia, NAACP, Board of Directors for United Way of Staunton and Augusta County, Staunton School Board (1975-1979), Staunton Mental Health Board, and Staunton Democratic Committee. He was a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as well as the Mt. Zion Lodge #18. Jones served as the treasurer of the Effie Ann Johnson Day Nursery for thirty years and was a member of the Augusta Street United Methodist Church. Jones was the first African-American person to be elected to Staunton's city council and also served as vice mayor (1968-1972). His awards include NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, Shenandoah Valley Hit's 1992 Black History Month Male Business Person of the Year, and the Rosenwald Alumni Award for Service.

Jones died December 1, 2004 at the age of 99.

Scope and Content

The Kenneth L. Jones Papers, 1966-1972, comprising photographs and printed ephemera, document Jones's time as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity, and as a civic leader in Staunton, Virginia.

The seven photographs document Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity annual conventions and regional meetings including the 1966 southwestern regional meeting in Muskogee, Oklahoma; the 1969 annual convention in Houston, Texas; the 1971 annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and an undated meeting in Norfolk, Virginia.

The printed ephemera includes a 1966 bulletin from West Virginia State University (Jones's alma mater) and an April 19, 1969 program for a testimonial dinner hosted by the Staunton-Augusta County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The program honored Dr. Charles J.

Waller, and Jones, who was serving as vice mayor of Staunton at the time, gave one of several testimonies. A certificate of service recognizes Jones's 46 years of membership as a mason in the Mt. Zion Lodge #18.

Separated Materials

Souvenir Journal of Mount Zion's First Hundred Years, 1868-1968 (1968) was removed from the collection and cataloged separately.

Keywords

Photographs
Booklets
Programs (documents)
Certificates
Printed Ephemera
African American Greek letter societies
African American college students
Local government -- Virginia -- Staunton
Staunton (Va.) -- History
Rolling Hills Antique Mall
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
West Virginia State University
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Bibliography

Obituary of Kenneth L. Jones, *The News Leader* (Staunton, Va.), December 3, 2014. "Brother Kenneth L. Jones Elected Staunton's Vice Mayor." *The Sphinx* 56, no. 4 (December 1968), 7.

Provenance

Acquired by Rolling Hills proprietor Jeff Bradfield at Green Valley Auctions on February 21, 2020.

Description of Subordinate Components

Photographs

Unit Date 1966-1969, undated

Mixed Materials [1000898630] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Printed ephemera

Unit Date 1966-1972

Mixed Materials [1000898630] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)