

Collection #
SC 3617
DVD 2354

**MARTHA LAMKIN
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 29 AUGUST 2013**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder; 1 DVD

COLLECTION DATES: 29 August 2013

PROVENANCE: Martha S. Lamkin, Indianapolis, Indiana, December, 2019, January, 2020

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0346; 2020.0020

NOTES: This forms part of the Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Martha S. Dampf Lamkin was born in 1942 in Talladega, Alabama, to Keith J. Dampf (1911–2006) and Neva Magness Dampf (1916–2005). At an early age, her parents moved the family to Fayetteville, Arkansas, and then on to Artesia, New Mexico, where she spent much of her childhood. When a teenager, she moved to Barstow, California, where she graduated from high school in 1960. She received her bachelor's degree in English literature and music in 1964 from California Baptist College (now California Baptist University) in Riverside, California, and then attended Vanderbilt University, where she received a master's degree in English and American literature in 1966. She met and married Dr. Eugene Henry (Ned) Lamkin, Jr. in 1968, while living in Indianapolis. After teaching English at Indiana State University, she pursued and received a law degree from Indiana University School of Law in 1970.

After graduation, Ms. Lamkin served on the Indianapolis Human Rights Commission, which led to her being asked by Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut to serve on the Indianapolis Public Housing Authority in the late seventies. At the request of Sen. Richard Lugar, she served as the Indiana manager for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1982 to 1987. During this time Ms. Lamkin also served as the vice chair of the first International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. She accepted the position of executive director of corporate responsibility and government affairs at Cummins Engine Company in 1987, went on to become the president of Cummins Engine Company Foundation, and then left Cummins for the position of executive vice president of corporate advancement at USA Group, Inc. in 1991. During her tenure at USA Group, she was appointed by Mayor Stephen Goldsmith to serve on The Indianapolis Foundation board, where she was involved in founding the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and its Women's Fund. Before retiring from full-time employment in 2007, she served as president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation (formerly USA Group, Inc.) with assets of \$1.3 billion. Throughout her career and in retirement, she has served on and chaired various boards of directors and trustees, including The Indianapolis Foundation, CICF, Christian Theological Seminary, Citizens Energy Group, Meridian Mutual Insurance Co., Christel House International, The Indiana Academy, Women4Change, and the Hoosier Capital Girl Scout Council. As the chair of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra board from 2007 to 2014, she played a significant role in guiding the symphony through an economically challenging time.

Ms. Lamkin and her husband have two children—Melinda Magness Lamkin Magaddino (b. 1970) and Matthew Davidson Lamkin (b. 1973). The Lamkins currently reside in Indianapolis.

Sources: Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a collection of oral history interviews devoted to collecting life stories of prominent Indiana women involved in business, education, law, philanthropy, politics, and religion. All of the women interviewed for this project were selected from within the membership of The Gathering, an informal networking group of approximately 175 Indiana women leaders which began around 1990. This group meets four times a year over lunch to hear from speakers and guests on subjects of interest to the group that facilitate discussion and enhance knowledge of current issues and events. There is no organized fundraising by or on behalf of the group, no lobbying, no partisan political activity, no charitable or volunteer commitments required. The Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project (initially known as The Gathering Oral History Project) was organized in 2013 by the members of The Gathering and conducted with the assistance and supervision of the Indiana Historical Society (IHS).

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on August 29, 2013, in Judge Sarah Evans Barker's chambers, Birch Bayh Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse, Indianapolis, Indiana, by Judge Sarah Evans Barker, a member of The Gathering. Data Logistics Control, INC, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, transcribed the interview in 2017, and Wendy L. Adams, director of oral history at IHS, lightly edited the transcript in 2019. The interview, which includes the audio recording, the transcript, and photographs of Ms. Lamkin, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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Oral history, transcript, and photographs

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