



## Guide to the Marie and James B. McMillan Papers

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on May 04, 2026. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1dp47>

© 2026 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special  
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note for Marie McMillan .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	6
Related Materials .....	6
Names and Subjects .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7
Marie McMillan papers .....	7
James B. McMillan papers .....	11

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	McMillan, Marie E., 1926-2019
<b>Contributor:</b>	McMillan, James B., 1917-1999
<b>Contributor:</b>	Daly, Duke, 1927-1977
<b>Title:</b>	Marie and James B. McMillan Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00482
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1928-2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10.38 Cubic Feet (25 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12.76 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Marie and James B. McMillan Papers (1928-2010) primarily contain documents pertaining to the families and careers of Marie and James B. McMillan. Included in the collection are photographs, biographical materials, newspaper clippings, award certificates, programs, obituaries, scrapbooks, trophies, legal and military documents, and political campaign documents. Marie McMillan is a former Las Vegas, Nevada flight instructor and one of the first women to work at the Nevada Test Site in Nye County, Nevada. James B. McMillan was the first African-American dentist to practice in Nevada, as well as a prominent Nevada civil rights leader.

### Preferred Citation

Marie and James B. McMillan Papers, 1928-2010. MS-00482. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note for Marie McMillan

---

Pilot and educator Marie McMillan was born Marie Stever in 1926 and was raised in Northern California. She earned her Associate's degree at the University of California, Berkeley before

marrying Elisha "Duke" Daly. Daly served as a radio operator on several naval ships during World War II. After World War II, the couple worked at Ernest O. Lawrence's radiation laboratory in Berkeley, California. In 1957, they moved to Nevada to work at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), with Marie becoming one of the first women to work there. In the 1960s, Marie McMillan and "Duke" Daly's marriage ended. In 1964, Marie married dentist and Nevada civil rights leader Dr. James B. McMillan.

While at the NTS, McMillan began learning how to fly airplanes. In 1978, she decided to challenge several aviation records and over the course of the next decade, she set 657 new records. In addition to flying, she also had an active career in several aviation organizations, including serving as the United States' delegate to several of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale conferences. She also served as the Clark County Department of Aviation public information representative for McCarran Airport and as a member of the Flying Ninety-Nines, a female aviation organization. In 2005, she was given the Distinguished Nevadan Award by the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Source:

"Marie E. McMillan." Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame. Accessed October 11, 2018. [http://www.nvahof.org/hof/marie\\_mcmillan/](http://www.nvahof.org/hof/marie_mcmillan/)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note for James B. McMillan

---

Civil rights leader James B. McMillan was born in 1917 in Aberdeen, Mississippi and moved to Michigan in 1931 with his family. He finished his high school education in Hamtramck, Michigan where he was the first African-American captain of the football and track teams. In 1936, he opted to enroll at the University of Detroit rather than the segregated University of Michigan. After graduation, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry.

While at Meharry, McMillan joined the Army Specialized Training Program and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Army Dental Corps. He was the first African-American man assigned to the 49th Battalion, which was stationed in Calcutta, India, and he rose to the rank of Captain. In 1946, he was honorably discharged. In 1954, he was recalled to active duty in Indiana and promoted to Major. He received a second honorable discharge in 1955 and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he lived until his death in 1999.

McMillan was the first African-American dentist in Nevada. He served as a member of the State Board of Dental Examiners, the American Board of Dental Examiners, and the American Dental Association. He was also active in the community, serving as Director of the Clark County Boys Club, Director of the Diabetic Society, on the board of directors for the KVBC television station, and as a member of the City of Hope fundraising committee.

McMillan was a prominent civil rights leader and an integral part of desegregation efforts in Nevada. He served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Las Vegas branch, chairman of the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, and president of the Black Chamber of Commerce (now known as the Urban Chamber of Commerce). In addition, he founded the Las Vegas Human Rights Commission, served on the Clark County School Board, was elected president of the West Las Vegas Democratic Club, and became the first African-American to served on the State Democratic Central Committee. He was also the first African-American from Nevada to run for the United States Senate and campaign for Las Vegas City Council. In 1960, as local NAACP president, McMillan threatened to march on the Las Vegas Strip to demand desegregation of public accomodations. Later, McMillan threatened another march to force casinos to hire blacks in positions other than porters and maids. In both cases, the casino owners capitulated. McMillan also orchestrated large voter registration drives to encourage minorities to vote.

In 1990, James B. McMillan Elementary School was dedicated in his honor. Weeks after McMillan's death in 1999, the Nevada State Assembly passed Concurrent Resolution No. 49 to honor McMillan's commitment to civil rights and racial equality.

Source:

"Dr. James B. McMillan: Committed to Freedom." Online Nevada Encyclopedia. Accessed December 10, 2018. <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/dr-james-b-mcmillan-committed-freedom>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The Marie and James B. McMillan Papers (1928-2010) primarily contain documents pertaining to the families and careers of Marie and James B. McMillan. The collection is mostly comprised of documents relating to their activities in Las Vegas, Nevada and Southern Nevada, including Marie McMillan's work at the Nevada Test Site and her aviation career; Marie's first husband "Duke" Daly's military service and work at the Nevada Test Site; and Dr. James B. McMillan's career as a dentist, civil rights leader, politician, and businessman. Included are photographs, biographical materials, newspaper clippings, award certificates, programs, obituaries, scrapbooks, trophies, legal and military documents, and political campaign documents.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

The materials are arranged into two series:

Series I. Marie McMillan papers, 1928-2010;

Series II. James B. McMillan papers, 1935-2006.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated periodically from 2004 to 2010 by Marie McMillan; accession numbers 2004-06 and 2011-21.

### Processing Note

Materials were processed by Joyce Moore in 2012. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description and brought it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Lindsay Oden entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Christina Lamoureux rehoused the material from the 2011-21 addition, revised the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Marie and James B. McMillan Photo Collection. PH-00334. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Marie McMillan oral history interview, 2009 September 15, 2009 September 23, 2009 October 01, and 2009 November 24. OH-01272. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

James McMillan oral history interview, 1999 January 23. OH-01271. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada

## Separated Materials

Some of the photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in: Marie and James B. McMillan Photo Collection. PH-00334. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- Aviation
- Nevada National Security Site (Nev.)
- African Americans -- Civil rights
- Segregation -- Nevada
- Air pilots
- African Americans -- Politics and government
- photographs

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Marie McMillan papers, 1928, 1939-2010

Physical Description: 4.57 Cubic Feet (11 boxes)

Physical Description: 4.90 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: Materials include Marie McMillan's personal papers about her family and her careers from 1928 to 2010, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1975 to 1999. The series includes biographical materials, newspaper clippings, award certificates, programs, photographs, obituaries, scrapbooks, and plaques.

Arrangement: Materials remain in the order they were received.

Title/Description	Containers
Biographical information, 1983-2006	box 01    folder 01
Certificates and awards, 1939-1985	

	box 01	folder 02
Correspondence, 1964-2010	box 01	folder 03-04
Distinguished Nevadan Award, 2006	box 01	folder 05
Fashion photographs, 1954	box 01	folder 06
Genealogical list of Stever family relatives, 1940	box 01	folder 07
High school graduation and reunion, 1944-2002	box 01	folder 08
Joseph M. Neal Elementary School, 2002	box 01	folder 09
License, school audiometrist, 1955	box 01	folder 10
License, real estate, 1985	box 01	folder 11
Report cards, 1943	box 01	folder 12
Senior Adult Theater Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2002	box 01	folder 13
Photographs, 1928	box 01	folder 14
Skit about racism, 1994	box 01	folder 15
Stafford, Robert, 1952-1993	box 01	folder 16-17
Photographs, undated	box 01	folder 18
Yearbooks, 1942-1949	box 02	
Anthropology papers, 1976-2000	box 03	folder 01-05
Old Spanish Trail, 1965-1990	box 04	folder 01
University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduation, 1994	box 04	folder 02
Birth announcements and children's drawings, 1954	box 05	folder 01
Elementary school assignments, undated		

	box 05	folder 02-03
Private school information, 1957	box 05	folder 04
Le Chatelainie yearbook, 1961	box 05	folder 05
Correspondence, 1957	box 05	folder 06
Postcards, 1962	box 05	folder 07
Postcards and photographs, 1960	box 05	folder 08
Vacation in Germany, 1962	box 05	folder 09
Wedding announcement, 1968	box 05	folder 10
Western High School Honor Society, 1963	box 05	folder 11
Swimming Club, 1960-1962	box 06	folder 01-06
Daly, Jack, college graduation, 1961	box 07	folder 01
Daly, Jack, schoolwork, 1953	box 07	folder 02-03
Photographs of Jack Daly, undated	box 07	folder 04
Photographs of James McMillan, Jr., undated	box 07	folder 05
Photographs of Jaramilla McMillan, 1964-1981	box 07	folder 06
Photographs of Jeffrey McMillan, 1968-2009	box 07	folder 07
Awards, 1984	box 08	folder 01
Correspondence, 1983-1991	box 08	folder 02-03
Federation Aeronautique Internationale Conference, 1989	box 08	folder 04
Meadows School at McCarran Airport, photographs, 1989	box 08	folder 05
"My Greatest Adventure", 1995		

	box 08	folder 06
Newsletter, The Vegas Valley Breeze, 1998	box 08	folder 07
Newspaper articles, 1984-1990	box 08	folder 08
News releases: National Aeronautic Association, 1985	box 08	folder 09
News releases: Flying Grandma, 1985	box 08	folder 10
Ninety Nines: Powder Puff Derby, 1975	box 08	folder 11
Oklahoma City Conference, 1999	box 08	folder 12
Pamphlets, 1985-2008	box 08	folder 13
Photographs, 1986	box 08	folder 14
Programs, 1999-2008	box 08	folder 15
Public relations by Paul, Stuart and Richard, Inc., 1985	box 08	folder 16
Receipts, 1981	box 08	folder 17
Statistics and Guinness records, Flying Grandma, 1981-1985	box 08	folder 18
"The Ninety Nines: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow", 1996	box 08	folder 19
Memorial service, Eva Marie Stever, 1989	box 09	folder 01
Obituary, Michelle Daly, 1971	box 09	folder 02
Memorial service, Michelle Marie Daly, 1971	box 09	folder 03
Memorial service, Rosalie Benning, 1974	box 09	folder 04
Obituaries and memorials, 1948-2010	box 09	folder 05
Newspaper clippings, photocopies of awards and certificates, and assorted mementos.		
Marie McMillan, 1969		

	box 10	folder 01
James McMillan, 1997-1999	box 10	folder 02
Joe Neal, 2000	box 10	folder 03-05
Wendell Williams, 2001-2002	box 10	folder 06
Assorted plaques, 2004-2006	box 23	
Elisha "Duke" Daly, 1943-1990		
American Rocket Society, 1945-1960	box 11	folder 01
Award certificates, Operation Hardtack, 1958	box 11	folder 02
Legal and Navy documents, 1944-1962	box 11	folder 03
Livermore Laboratory and "The Magnet" newsletter, 1956-1959	box 11	folder 04
Nevada Test Site, 1957-1961	box 11	folder 05
Photographs, 1962-1993	box 11	folder 06
Photographs, Navy, 1943-1945	box 11	folder 07
Scrapbook, 1950-1990	box 11	folder 08

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## James B. McMillan papers, 1935-2006

Physical Description: 6.23 Cubic Feet (14 boxes)

Physical Description: 9.00 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: Materials document the life, career, and civil rights activities of Dr. James B. McMillan from 1935 to 2006. The series includes biographical information, awards and certificates, trophies, legal and military documents, newspaper articles, political campaign documents, photographs, and plaques.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged in the order they were received.

Title/Description	Containers	
Biographical information, 1999	box 12	folder 01
Black Pioneers of Nevada, 1998		

	box 12	folder 02
Certificates and awards, 1955-2004	box 12	folder 03
Certificates: dentistry, 1955-1991	box 12	folder 04
City Council of Las Vegas: campaign materials, 1972	box 12	folder 05
Correspondence, 1964-1992	box 12	folder 06-07
"Fighting Back" biography from University of Nevada, Reno, 1997-1998	box 12	folder 08
Hamtramck High School, sports programs, 1935-1991	box 12	folder 09
Martin Luther King, Jr. speech and photograph, 1963, 1991	box 12	folder 10
Meharry Dental Class reunions and photographs, 1969-1994	box 12	folder 11
Newspaper articles, 1960-1997	box 13	folder 01
Portraits, 1983-1990	box 13	folder 02
Profile in Courage Award, 1990	box 13	folder 03
United States Senate campaign, 1964	box 13	folder 04
Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church, 2001	box 13	folder 05
"This Is Your Life" Honors Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, 1990	box 13	folder 06
Wedding information sent from the Bahamas, 1964	box 13	folder 07
Wedding photographs with Marie McMillan, 1964	box 13	folder 08
West Las Vegas Democratic Club bylaws, 1964	box 13	folder 09
Plaques, 1960-1999	oversized box 14	
Invitations to events, 1989-2006	box 15	folder 01
"Order of the Amaranth" ritual book, 1946		

	box 15	folder 02
Black Pioneers of Nevada, programs, 1987-1991	box 15	folder 03
"This Is Your Life" programs, 1985-1992	box 15	folder 04
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) programs, 1987-1997	box 15	folder 05
Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce programs, 1985-2000	box 15	folder 06
Event Programs, 1984-1992	box 15	folder 07
Valley View Golf Club awards and photographs, 1971	box 15	folder 08
Martin Luther King Banquets, 2001-2002	box 16	folder 01
Freedom Fund Banquet, 1974-2000	box 16	folder 02
Historic Moulin Rouge Perservation Association, 1995-2003	box 16	folder 03
City Council Agenda, 1984	box 17	folder 01
Citizens Priority Advisory Committee, 1985	box 17	folder 02
Compensation Board appointment, 1989	box 17	folder 03
Curtiss Atomic Marines Reunion, 2006	box 17	folder 04
Pursuing Equal Justice in the West: conference packet, 2004	box 17	folder 05
Urban Chamber of Commerce Conference: conference packet, 2000-2001	box 17	folder 06
First Interstate Bank of Nevada v James B. McMillan, 1983	box 18	folder 01
First Nevada Management Company: articles of incorporation, 1964	box 18	folder 02
Kahua Shores Limited, 1990	box 18	folder 03
McMillan Ranches, 1978	box 18	folder 04
Property maps, 1980		

	box 18	folder 05
Las Vegas Valley Broadcasting Company, application for a new commercial television broadcast station, 1971	box 18	folder 06
Valley Broadcasting Company: sale, 1982	box 18	folder 07
Valley Broadcasting Company: Federal Communications Commission hearing, 1986	box 18	folder 08
Escrow papers, 1964	box 19	folder 01
Financial Corporation of Nevada, appraisal report, 1964	box 19	folder 02
Legal case: Joseph O'Rayel, 1989	box 19	folder 03
Legal case: Walton Noble, 1982-1990	box 19	folder 04
Legal papers: Citizens State Bank, 1964	box 19	folder 05
Legal papers: Nevada Savings and Loan, 1964	box 19	folder 06
Legal papers: Port Harcourt, Nigeria casino, 1981-1990	box 19	folder 07
Property purchase and management, Kasper Park, 1964	box 19	folder 08
Department of Labor employment documents, 1967	box 19	folder 09
Veterans home loan eligibility, 1965	box 19	folder 10
James B. McMillan Elementary School		
Dedication, 1990	box 20	folder 01
Honor Choir, 2000	box 20	folder 02
Letters from students, 1990	box 20	folder 03-04
Newspaper clippings, 1989	box 20	folder 05
Rededication, 2004	box 20	folder 06
School information, 2000		

box 20    folder  
07

---

Trophies, plaques, audio cassette tapes, and honors, 2000	box 21
Photographs, approximately 1940-2006	box 22
Assorted plaques, 1944-1998	box 23 box 24 box 25
Display (disassembled) for Fighting Back: A life in the Struggle for Civil Rights book signing and reception event, 1997 December 02	box 25

---

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)