



Guide to the David Parks oral history interviews

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Parks, David R., 1943-
Contributor:	Las Vegas Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Archives Oral History Project
Title:	David Parks oral history interviews
ID:	OH-01433
Date:	2000 February 16
Date:	2000 February 21
Date:	2007 January 31
Physical Description:	22 Digital Files (0.675 GB) MP3, PDF/A
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>Oral history interviews with David Parks conducted by Dennis McBride on February 16 and 21, 2000 and January 31, 2007 for the Las Vegas Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Archives Oral History Project. In the first interviews, Parks talks about his early life in Boston, Massachusetts, his education, and his service with the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1967. Parks then recalls understanding his sexuality during his military service and policies regarding gay military personnel. He remembers coming out as gay in 1972, when he attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and worked for the City of Las Vegas as a computer operator. He then talks about getting involved with politics, his involvement with gay support organizations including Aid for AIDS of Nevada, and his experiences running as the first openly gay Nevada State Assemblyman in 1996. In the 2007 interview, Parks, a member of the Nevada senate, discusses working on a Nevada anti-bullying bill and a family fairness bill, which stated that any two persons could have another person as a recipient beneficiary. Park describes dealing with opposition to the family fairness bill with some people arguing that it changes the traditional definition of family. Parks recalls running against a man with a similar name, David F. Parks, in a 2002 legislative assembly election. Digital audio and transcript available.</p>

Preferred Citation

David Parks oral history interviews, 2000 February 16, 2000 February 21, 2007 January 31. OH-01433. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interviews with David Parks conducted by Dennis McBride on February 16 and 21, 2000 and January 31, 2007 for the Las Vegas Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Archives Oral History Project. In the first interviews, Parks talks about his early life in Boston, Massachusetts, his education, and his service with the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1967. Parks then recalls understanding his sexuality during his military service and policies regarding gay military personnel. He remembers coming out as gay in 1972, when he attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and worked for the City of Las Vegas as a computer operator. He then talks about getting involved with politics, his involvement with gay support organizations including Aid for AIDS of Nevada, and his experiences running as the first openly gay Nevada State Assemblyman in 1996.

In the 2007 interview, Parks, a member of the Nevada senate, discusses working on a Nevada anti-bullying bill and a family fairness bill, which stated that any two persons could have another person as a recipient beneficiary. Park describes dealing with opposition to the family fairness bill with some people arguing that it changes the traditional definition of family. Parks recalls running against a man with a similar name, David F. Parks, in a 2002 legislative assembly election. Digital audio and transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by Dennis McBride. Materials from this oral history project were donated to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives on an ongoing basis ending in 2016.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2017. Jimmy Chang wrote the collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by an external vendor into a digital format. MP3 files of the audio are available for research use. In 2025, Sarah Jones updated the finding aid to include the 2007 interview and the complete transcript.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Politicians
- Gay community
- Gay rights
- Clark County (Nev.) -- Politics and government
- Aid for AIDS of Nevada
- Nevada. Legislative Assembly