Sullivan: I am Dr. Louis Sullivan, native Atlanta and born here at Grady Hospital in 1933. I’m a physician, graduate of Booker Washington High School here in Atlanta and of Morehouse College and graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. I was born in the depths of the depression here in Atlanta.

My father was a life insurance salesman. I was the second of two boys and that time he was not making any money because no one was buying life insurance, people were more concerned about paying rent, putting food on the table et cetera. So he was going broke. He decided that he needed to move from Atlanta to try and find business elsewhere.

First he moved to Newman for less than a year and then on to Auburn in Georgia is where he entered into a partnership with a funeral home there; [inaudible 00:01:04] funeral home. He went into that business and that partnership and that lasted about two years. For reasons that I have never learned they didn’t get along. So they dissolved that and my father then moved to Blakely, 58 miles west of [Auberny 00:01:23] and he established the first black funeral home in Blakely at that time.

Up until then when Blacks died, they would have to send either to [Auburney 00:01:35] 58 miles way to the east or to Dothan Alabama 28 miles to the west to get a black funeral home service where the one white funeral director there, would provide services but they would have to go in the back or go into the funeral services, the cask would be on the back of a flat truck rather than in a hearse. When my father moved to establish the funeral home there, he was well received.

My mother was a school teacher and she was [inaudible 00:02:15] with my father but my father was also a real social activist. What I mean by that is this, he established the first chapter of the NAACP in the small town of some 12,000 people in south west Georgia. He was working to get blacks registered to vote. He was fighting the white primary that … laws in Georgia that did not permit blacks to participate in the primaries. He sued the school system for having inadequate school facilities for black students.

He started the first … started the annual celebration of emancipation, January 1st of every year with speakers and the parades and so forth, but all of this really, to really uplift the black community. He was well supported by the blacks in the community but for all of his activism, my mother as a school teacher could never get a job teaching school in Blakely or in Early County. They lived there 20 years, so 1937 when I was aged 4 they moved there until 1957. So during all that time, my mother, she had her bachelor’s degree then later a master’s degree in education that she received from Atlanta University.

She had to travel to towns in other counties where she would get a job because this was the only way that the white community could retaliate because my father was serving the black community here. So my brother Walter who is a year and a half older than I, my brother Walter and I would go with my mother wherever she was teaching school.

That’s where we attended school until Walter was in 6th grade and I was in 5th grade and they then sent us to Savannah to live with my mother’s relatives because my mother had grown up in Savannah; so most of her family was there. So we went to Savannah for year to attend schools there because in those years the segregation certainly ruled Georgia, schools for blacks were really woefully inadequate in terms of books, equipment et cetera.

My folks were strongly committed to my brother Walter and I getting a strong education. So they sent us to Savannah for a year, we lived there and then the following year, my mother came to Atlanta university to get her master’s degree in education so we came with her. When I was in 6th grade, I attended schools in Atlanta for the first time.

During that year that my mother was here working on her master’s degree, she met people and made arrangements for Walter and I subsequently to live with a friend that she had made, a Mrs. Mark Brown who we actually stayed with her subsequently. My mother went back to Blakely after the end of the year with having gotten her master’s degree. But Walter and I stayed with Mrs. Brown. We would go home on holidays occasional weekends, and of course during the summer but in essence from the time I was in 6th grade on through graduation from Booker Washington High School, we attended school here in Atlanta, that was because my parents wanted us to get a strong education.

In those years in rural Georgia, and certainly in Blakely, there were two physicians who both white. Again with the segregation in those years, you would have to go into a separate waiting rooms, separate entrance or around the back to the see the doctor. My parents ways of resisting that and obviously in the black community, was that if you had an emergency they would go be seen there but if it was not an emergency they would drive quarter of a mile south Bainbridge, the one black doctor in south west Georgia was Dr. Joseph Griffin.

He turned out to be my first role model because when I was about age five or six, while riding in a car with my mother, she was asking my brother and me what we wanted to be when we grew up and my brother was going to be an undertaker just like my father but of course that was not surprising and I said I wanted to be a doctor. I said I want to be like Dr. Griffin and my mother said “Louis that’s fine, you would be a great doctor.” And I really looking back in that realize she was giving me really positive reinforcement.

The thing about Dr. Griffin was as follows that really impressed me greatly. First of all he was really highly respected in the community, people came from all south west Georgia to see him. He was obviously very successful, he had built a brick clinic about 25 bed facility, he operated people for appendicitis or tonsillitis and other things. He was someone who possessed powers that other people didn’t have. He could cure people.

When we go to his clinic and my father would often provide ambulance services to people of the community; we were having a funeral home. And so when he would take people down to see doctor Griffin, he would ask me “Louis why don’t you with me and help me for some …: again I realized my father recognized that I was impressed by Dr. Griffin so he was reinforcing that. When you open the door to his clinic, you smell ether, something strange, pungent powerful et cetera and he would always be in green scrub suit. All that impressed me. He was someone who was doing something important. People respect him. Financially he is doing well and I always liked biology.

I was always interested in birds or squirrels or plants or flowers et cetera, really interested in nature and biology. So from those early years, I knew that I wanted to be a doctor. Other things that happened to me during that time was that my parents moved to Blakely was a small town where there were few recreational facilities for black youngsters.

My father built a ice-cream parlor on the property where we lived. This is was an ice-cream parlor that my brother Walter and I would operate during the summer when we were home there in Blakely, turned out to be a very popular place for young people, turned out to be a gathering place in the community; not only for teenagers but also for some adults as well. They really changed the community, influenced community greatly.

So my parents really provided an example for me and my brother, really people who could work to change the community. We really were very much impressed by them and their value system as well impressed us. The time that Walter and I attended school in Atlanta was a great time. We have a lot of classmates who were very interesting young people. We lived right across the street from Booker Washington High; we met physicians, black physicians in the community.

But Atlanta also was a city that had a lot of successful black people. Businessmen, there was another life insurance company where my father had worked when … of course I later learned that that was started by Alonzo Herndon who had really been born a slave but he then became a barber and then started this burial service and that developed into Atlanta Life Insurance Company. We found that the homes that blacks had here were really very nice homes, learned there was a mutual federal savings and loan which really helped blacks get mortgages at a time around the country when blacks would have difficulty getting mortgages.

There was Atlanta University Center here with various black colleges here, Morehouse College, Spellman, Clark, Brown, Atlanta University, so this was a community city that had a vibrant black community, lot of people who were very successful. We were very impressed by that.

The influence that my parents had on us and my teachers in high school because they always were very dedicated to us, wanted us to learn everything. They would stimulate us, they would challenge us, I remember many of my high school teachers; Mr. Martin my geometry teacher would challenge the class and really inspire us to work very hard.

So when it came time when I graduated from high school and I was class president and so class salutatorian, so I had done well academically. My mother had graduated from Clark College and my brother who is a year ahead of me had enrolled in Clark College so I was expected to go to Clark. My friends were going to Morehouse and I really wanted to go with my friends to Morehouse. That started a little family discussion because my, church from my family was a Methodist church there. And of course these schools at the [Atlanta 00:12:20] university center had been started by religious affiliations, they had long since become independent but they still had some relationships with these denominations.

Morehouse had been started by the Baptist. I told my parents that I wanted to go to Morehouse my father said “Morehouse, that’s a Baptist school” I said “Yes it was founded by the Baptist but it became independent long time ago so I don’t know.” We had these family discussions … so my mother intervened, says “Well let’s think about this, Morehouse is a fine school, if he wants to go there, there is nothing wrong with that.” That was the end of that, I went to Morehouse.

That was a great decision for me because as you know Morehouse College really has a distinction of having a number of successful blacks not only here in Atlanta but around the country who attended there. Since I was interested in medicine I knew that Morehouse had a strong premedical program but of course some of our most famous graduate of course is Martin Luther King Junior. He finished in 1948. I entered Morehouse in 1950 so I really didn’t get to know him until many years later. I had just met him once in Boston in fact but in addition to Martin Luther King Junior, there were people such as T.M. Alexander who was a prominent black businessman at a real estate insurance company here in Atlanta.

There were ministers around the country who had graduated from Morehouse but most important, it was Morehouse president Dr Benjamin Mays. Dr Mays was someone who’s own life story was really inspiration. He grew up in rural south Carolina, town called 96 because highway 96 ran through there and he didn’t go to school a full year until when he was growing in the early part of the 20th century but he went to Maine to Bates College and was the one black in his class and he finished I think in 1906, was valid Victorian in his class at Bates College.

As a president of Morehouse he had received a PHD in philosophy in religion from the university of Chicago. He was an eloquent speaker, he urged the students to aim high, don’t take shortcuts whatever … he would say things such as “Whatever you choose to do in life, you should do it so well,” said, “No man living and no man dead and no man yet to be could do it better,” he said “If you commit yourself to that, when they are looking for someone in your field, whether it is law or business or medicine or architecture or engineering, when they are looking for someone they would have to consider you. So you may not get the job but it should not be because you are not qualified.”

And that really, we took seriously as students, because we wanted to be like Dr Mays, he was not only eloquent as a speaker but he was always walked with grace and sprout and erect, was well dressed was tremendously courteous, staff [inaudible 00:15:38] people. He was really quite a role model, he was really like a second father took us and I should know Morehouse was and still is all male school, Spelman is across the street that our companion institutions all female, both independent schools with a lot of relationships between the two schools.

But that was the kind of influence that we had … so I worked hard at Morehouse and I loved being challenged, again I did well. I finished second in my class and we were encouraged by some of our faculty as well as in career counseling sessions to really go, to apply wherever we wanted to go. We were encouraged for example for a premedical program to apply to medical schools all over the country. I finished Morehouse 1954, that was the year Brown vs. Board of education decision. Most blacks up until that time attended the two primary medical schools Howard in Washington and the Meharry in Nashville but in those years there was a lot of encouragement in the early 50s for blacks to really apply to Michigan, to Harvard, to Stanford et cetera.

So I applied to several schools, Boston University, University of Rochester School of Medicine, University of Michigan et cetera and I really had no idea if I would be accepted. When I applied to Boston University about a month later I received a letter acknowledging my application and saying they would like for me to be interviewed by an alumnus of Boston University who was … school of medicine … who was a physician here in downtown Atlanta.

I went down for my interview and had the interview and I, how they talked to us courteous, somehow he just didn’t seem to be very interested, and so I thought “Oh Gosh, I’m not sure how I’m going to do here,” and so he thanked me for coming and so he said I’ll be hearing from the medical school. I said “Oh my goodness.” So I wonder if I would be invited for an interview or if I’ll be rejected. Well I got about three weeks later, a letter from Boston university, and I opened it, said, “I hope this is not a letter of rejection, I hope I get invited for an interview.”

I opened it up it was a letter of acceptance; they had accepted me without even going to the medical school to Boston for an interview. So I was elated. I was the first Morehouse graduate to go to Boston University School of Medicine. That fall in September 1954, when I went to Boston, that was the first time I, it was really living in a non segregated environment. I heard of Boston, I had read so much about Boston, its prominence, the revolutionary war, Paul revere’s ride and the Lexington Minutemen and the Tea Party incident at Boston Harbor, Crispus Attucks was a black American killed in the revolutionary war, the first black to die.

There was so much history there and of course in my class at Boston University, my classmates had finished places like Harvard and Princeton and Columbia and Amherst and Middlebury, all these places that I had heard about and of course my classmates when they met me and I was the one black in the class would say “Where are you from?” I said “I’m a graduate of Morehouse College” “Morehead, yes great school.” I said “No, no not Morehead, Morehouse.” “Oh Morehouse? Where is that?” so I was wondering how am I going to do here. I was very much aware, first Morehouse alumnus to go to Boston University School of Medicine, only black in my class, how am I going to do here, all these guys from these schools that I have always heard about the Ivy league et cetera. I hope I don’t embarrass myself, I hope I represent my family, I hope I represent Morehouse.

But I was [inaudible 00:20:06], going to medical school represented another change because my classmates were all very smart. They had finished top of their class wherever they had gone. So I said look, this is … well I had done well at Morehouse and I had really very bright classmates at Morehouse who did very well, I said “Look here, this is another thing.” So make a long story short, we had first examination in anatomy three weeks after I started and I got one of the top scores, so I relaxed. I then knew my preparation was just as good as that of my classmates.

Again I had a great experience at Boston University, both academically and socially. I found my classmates accepted me, really after the first months I forgot I was black. My classmates were Barry or Pat or Regina et cetera, we would work together, we had anatomy or physiology et cetera. I was elected class president my second year, so I served as class president there. Great learning experience, medical school I found of course I could the work. There was so much of it.

The challenge wasn’t the difficulty or the complexity of the concepts. That wasn’t an issue, just so much information to master coming at you so fast. So I did well, finished second in my class at Boston University. And by this time I knew that I wanted to be an internist, go to internal medicine as a field hadn’t … I hadn’t ever heard of internal medicine when I entered medical school I was just thinking of general practice et cetera but I learnt a lot about medicine when I was in medical school.

I wanted to be an internist because internists we are the diagnosticians, they are the people who were supposed to have the most comprehensive knowledge, to solve problems, to not only make diagnosis but really manage complex medical problems. That appealed to me. In deciding on where I wanted to go for an internship, again, I decided I was going to apply to top places; I applied to a number of places in Boston and New York including New York Hospital.

This is now in this [winter 00:22:40] of 1957 because I finished in 1958. I went down to Cornell Medical Center and 1958 there had never been a black intern at Cornell Medical center, so here again I was really going into a situation where I didn’t know what would happen. When I went in for my interview that morning, I remember the doctor who interviewed me [inaudible 00:23:06], I had a great interview with him, he asked me a lot of questions, we talked what I wanted to do and why and what my experience as a medical student had been so forth.

At the end of my interview he said “What are your plans for this” “I have an interview at Columbia this afternoon,” he said “Look, if you can stay around maybe for an hour, I’d like to see that you get to see the chairman of the department” “Gosh I guess I that’s the screen.” Now things changed because I really was going through the motions really preparing really to be turned down. There had never not only never been a black guy interning, they had never had a Boston university graduate there either. Cornell was really one of the elite schools. I was thinking gosh, maybe there is a chance I might get in here.

Anyway about 45 minutes later I was shown into the office of the chairman of the medicine [Dr Hue lucky 00:24:06]. So I went in and when he walked over to me he was about 6 feet tall but very stocky. He had sort of a fluid reddish complexion and he when said “Hi Louis, nice to meet you.” He had the biggest southern accent I said “Oh my goodness, why are they doing this to me? I’m not going to get …” so I sat down, we had the interview within about 15 minutes. He said “Under the intern matching program that we participate in like other hospitals around the country. We are not supposed to indicate to candidates how they stand in our ranking. But I just hope you know that we are interested in you.” I said “Wow” that and I was accepted there.

That was a lesson to me because I had made an automatic assumption that here’s this southerner, here I was black, that I’ll never get in … I was accepted, when I started in July 1st of 58, we had a meeting with the departmental chairman and my fellow interns, there was 16 of us, I was again the one black in the group and at New York Hospital Cornell, I would say that I was the case with Boston University. I was well accepted. I really did not have, I had only one incident during … I was there for two years, internship and year of residency, one incident with a patient who objected to me saying … what happened when I got started I was assigned to the busiest ward in the hospital.

That was great because I learnt a lot and so I was very busy because each one of these times, the level of the energy, the concentration, the commitment seemed to be even higher, but I adjusted and I was doing well. I had been there just about two weeks and head nurse came to me one morning says Dr Lucky would like to see you in his office as soon as you can get down there” “what’s happening, what have I done wrong?” I went down and so he had me sit down says “How are you doing?” and I said “Fine” “Are there any problems?” I said “No” “Did anybody give you any trouble?” “No” “Learned anything? “Yes.” I was very tense, because I was waiting for the hammer to drop, what I had done.

He said “Louis you know, first of all let me say, you are our first black intern. I’m from Tennessee, I have been here New York for 13 years and people here in New York think all southerners think alike but I want you to know I intend for you to have a good experience, to learn everything you can because I want you to be successful. If anybody gives you any problem, I don’t care who it is, a doctor, a patient, you come directly to me.”

Again that surprised me and [that was ringing 00:27:25] so again that taught me a lesson that I … in the same way that blacks are often stereotyped by whites, blacks can stereotype themselves. That was a lesson to me to not be judgmental of people automatically. Anyway I was there two years, had a tremendous learning experience, great faculty, great physicians, my fellow interns were also, we learnt a lot from each other. So that was a tremendous learning experience for me.

But one incidence I had was on a Sunday afternoon in my second year when I was a first year resident I was very busy in the late afternoon, I think I had admitted five patients to the hospital, that was a lot of work with each one of them. I was called and said there was another patient down the private service who had been admitted by one of the high admitters to the hospitals [Dr Fockner 00:28:24] who had a large practice. I went up to see the patient.

I walked into the room, he looked at me he said “You get out of here.” By this time I’m tired, I had been working and we really didn’t like the [house staff 00:28:39] for the interns, we didn’t like the private service center because he was really not our patient, he was a private physician’s patient and what we were doing was simply doing evaluation, writing up the charts and so forth.

They would really have the order so we really felt that we were just kind of supporting services, really our input was not really decision making in terms of that. So in a sense we never really liked the private service, was the public service we really were more in charge and we learnt. So when the patient said that I said “Well that’s fine by me” and I walked out, in this Sunday afternoon I called Dr Lucky, he had given me his phone I said “Dr Lucky, there is a patient of Dr Fockner’s here who doesn’t want me to examine.

He says “Really” he says “Let me talk to the head nurse and within ten minutes that patient was being wheeled out of the hospital. And so he was, the chief of medicine really taking one of our high, the patient is one of our very influential physicians and he was discharged, Lucky wasn’t going to stand for that. That really showed me that Lucky was a man of his word here. He and I became really great friends there.

Anyway I went back to Boston after two years in New York hospital and did training in hematology at the Harvard service at Boston City Hospital because by that time I had learned so much about medicine I was attracted to hematology, studying blood diseases, leukemia, anemias, bleeding disorders et cetera and I knew that I wanted to not only become a hematologist but to do research in hematology and sit on the faculty.

I did work at Boston City Hospital at the Thorndike laboratory which is a very prestigious [appointment 00:30:32] and so again I was lucky to get that appointment because the chief of the unit there was Dr [William Castle 00:30:37]. He had done work back in the 30s for [inaudible 00:30:41] so he should he had gotten the Nobel Prize. He didn’t but the work was very important. He showed the mechanism by which vitaminB12 is absorbed by the gut and that was important in terms of form anemia called pernicious anemia which develops when you have a deficiency of vitamin B12 that’s because for people who develop pernicious anemia, the gut loses the ability to absorb vitamin B12 and so Castle had done the work to show why this happens.

He showed that there was a substance in gastric juice, subsequently shown to be a glycolprotein that binds to B12 that’s in the food primarily in meats et cetera and then transports the B12 down to the lower parts of the intestine where it’s absorbed but people with pernicious anemia lose the ability to produce that glycol protein. Therefore the B12 is not absorbed, just passes right through them. He was really a brilliant researcher.

He had built a strong research unit at the … and I was before him who directed the laboratory. Again, I had a great experience there and I did some research there where perhaps the most significant research was work to show that alcohol in amounts consumed by heavy drinkers could suppress the production of blood cells by the bone marrow. That was a new finding, required study of patients at a metabolic ward and it resulted in not only a publication in a prestigious journal; Clinical Investigations, but I was invited to present the paper at a annual research meeting of the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

That really is how my research career started. When I finished my fellowship there after three years at the Thorndike, I was recruited to Seton Hall School of medicine on their faculty which is [in New Jersey 00:32:4] City New Jersey. I was there for two years, then I was invited back to Boston university to serve on the faculty there. That opportunity that I had working with [Bill Castle 00:32:53] and the people in that unit who were brilliant researchers [Jamie Ando 00:32:58] who studied hemolytic anemias, anemias where the red cells are destroyed prematurely when they are still young.

My immediate mentor was [Victor Herbert 00:33:12] who did a lot of work on Folic acid deficiency because of a similar kind of anemia, they can develop deficient in folic acid which is another one of the B vitamins and my fellow, my colleagues who were also hematology research fellows who subsequently became professors in medical schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin and elsewhere. That was a tremendous environment.

All along I was really fortunate to be in environments that were encouraging, that were challenging, that were inspiring and also supportive there. The other thing that I should point out is when I went to Boston for the first time; I met a young lady who also had come down to Boston to go to North Eastern University. Her name was [Eva Sullivan 00:34:09] but her friends called her ginger because she didn’t drink. When she’d go out with friends, when they would order various wine or whiskey et cetera she always order ginger ale. So her nickname was ginger.

I met her because I hadn’t known anyone in Boston the time but met her through members of my college fraternity which they offer fraternities because when I went to Boston I looked up the alpha chapter there to get to know people there. They were very supportive and getting to tell me all about Boston, making sure that I met people, so I met Ginger and of course the interesting thing about her coming to Boston at the same time, she came from Pittsville with a very western part of the state.

People in Pittsville looked upon Boston as a city full of temptations, vice, corruption et cetera. Her mother sat her down when she was getting ready to go up to college to tell her how to conduct herself in Boston et cetera. Ginger [sat 00:35:18] listen, when ginger thought her mother was finished she stood up to leave. Her mother said “No, no sit down, I haven’t finished yet” she says, “I have one more thing,” says “If you don’t remember anything else I say, you remember this one thing, when you go to Boston don’t get mixed up with any of those southern boys.”

I had her mother to thank for that and of course I later learned the reason for that advice was somehow within her earlier life her mother had met some guy from Birmingham who turned out to be really a rotten guy. So her mother concluded all these southern guys were bad. Well because her mother told her that, ginger had [inaudible 00:35:59] what is it about those southern boys? She didn’t give her anything reason, just stay away from them.

We met two weeks after I was in Boston. We were going out for dates. We really hit it off, she played tennis, I had always heard about the New England foliage, how colorful it was and so forth. Perhaps second date I said “would you like to go on a foliage tour?” she looked at me in the strangest way because I later learnt for her, what’s so special about this, she’d grown up every year with the colors et cetera,she didn’t have to go off on any trip to see the foliage. So this was just a strange thing. But fortunately she agreed. We [throw 00:36:45] up into New Hampshire in early October it was very nice; it’s a nice day trip there.

To make the long story short we really hit it off very well and really I knew this was the person for me. Well I actually got married my sophomore year in medical school and Ginger was a student at North Eastern, we were both students but this really went very well. I have three children, my oldest son Paul when I was a senior medical student and he is now a physician in Dallas Texas, he’s a radiologist and our second child, my daughter, Shanta was born while I was a fellow at the Thorndike laboratory. My third child my son, Halsted was born when I was on the faculty in Boston University in 1968.

All three of my children were born in Boston in different phases in my career. But when I was invited back on the faculty at Boston University in 1966 having graduated in 1958 I was very pleased because I was really returning to my medical home at Boston University. Again I was the first black fulltime faculty that they had. As a student I had really had such a tremendous experience both academically and socially, I really was committed to the institution. I was very pleased there.

I developed a hematologist service for Boston University at Boston City Hospital because before 1966, the hematology activities at Boston City Hospital were managed by Harvard Medical School where I had done my training. And also Tufts medical School had a hematologist service there. There were three medical schools in Boston, Harvard, BU and Tufts and they all were there working at Boston City Hospital in a usually cooperative fashion. I developed the service for BU there.

Again as a member of the faculty I had a great experience. The other thing that happened was this, in the spring of ‘68, I was on the faculty there, that was the time when Martin Luther King was assassinated and like other places all around the country, this is such a shocking thing, it really caused us to really sort of take stock of BU medical school as well as [the rest of the universities on medical school is over 00:39:38] by Boston City Hospital away from the main university.

But when I was a student at BU medical school as I mentioned I was the one black in my class, but then like three in the whole medical school there was a black student in the third class and then one in the fourth year class, none in the class immediately ahead of me, but though few of us, but again we all had a good experience. 1968, 10 years after I graduated when we were assessing ourselves, we noticed that there were seven black students and I said “You know, seven is better than three but still not that much better.” So as a member of the faculty, then as a graduate of the university I said “We need really to work to recruit more black students here. There is a shortage of black doctors, I have had a great experience so this is a great place et cetera.

So we organized [an effort 00:40:37] we were about ten faculty, the others were white, who all agreed we really ought to do better here. So we raised money, talked to the dean of the medical school at the time who happened to be hematologist and I had known him when he was a hematologist. He came down from Dartmouth [Frank Ebor 00:41:00] he had been chief of hematologist at Dartmouth Medical School before he became dean at BU.

I went in to see him and as a member of the faculty and said “Frank, some of us have decided we really would like to see more black students here and would you work with us?” he said “While I agree with you, but we don’t any money” I said “We want to raise the money” and so he said “Well fine, I’ll work with you on that.”

Make a long story short; we decided that we would work to recruit premedical students to come to Boston that fall, we decided thanks giving weekend will be a good time for, to introduce them to the medical schools, they apply here, have your friends apply. By mid September, this seemed to be going well. We contacted 24 black colleges, not only Morehouse and Spelman but the places, Jackson state in Mississippi and [Tululu 00:41:58] and other places.

We had gotten a good response, so to one of our meetings and planning for this, we said “This is looking good but we are going to have 24 students coming up talking about medical school. What if all of them are qualified? Can we take 24 students they probably need financial support?” So we said “Gosh that would be a shame if we really had that happen. We’re not really able to give them the kind of support they would need so let’s open this up and invite the other medical schools in New England.

So we ended up with this becoming a New England Medical schools event where we had not only Harvard and Turfs with their Boston with us, Brown University joined with us, University of Massachusetts school of Medicine, Dartmouth and Vermont so we had all of the medical schools in New England to participate except for the two in Connecticut, Yale and [inaudible 00:43:00] Connecticut which was a young school didn’t participate. They were more oriented in line with schools in New York than us but we ended up with this recruitment weekend where we had faculty from each of these schools there.

We were talking about medicine as a career opportunity and we were saying how we were interested in training more black physicians and we’d like to have them consider our schools and et cetera. And then after the morning session we would have an afternoon where each school had a room there for the students to rotate through. All 24 students really had a chance to have individual discussions with people from the schools so it ended up the following year in September of 69, Harvard for example had had two black students in their freshman class in 1968, in 69 they had nine. Boston University had seven, every school that participated except University of Vermont, every school had more black students and Vermont, and it wasn’t their fault.

Actually, Vermont had a black faculty member Larry [Macoury 00:44:19] who came down, he was the chairman of their department of Physiology, they tried to recruit students but the students really thought that Vermont was the North Pole so they were not interested in Vermont and that was too bad because Larry Macoury and his colleagues were really so disappointed after that. But that was really the response that we had and of course this is part of a larger response all around the country because you may remember a lot of schools really as a result of that shocking thing really sort of took assessment.

I was very proud of that as a member of a faculty at BU because an I thought over the years I came to medical school with the intention I wasn’t going to back to rural Georgia, I was going to be like Doc Griffin, Now here I am I’m a faculty member, I’m a researcher and while I’m enjoying what I’m doing I think it is important, this is so different from what I had planned. So something like this to me was not only to address what we saw as a vital problem, this also would help to really make happen the things that really I had in mind when I went to medical school.

But one thing led to another and there was a period of expansion of medical schools occurred in the country primarily in the second half of the 20th century because in the mid 50s there were predictions of a shortage of doctors that we either have more doctors so the federal government primarily with funds given by the Department of Health and Human Services gave funds to develop new medical schools as well as to expand the class size of existing schools. It started in 1856, so from 1856 to 1981 we opened in the country 47 new medical schools, that was tremendous because up until the mid 50’s we had 80 medical schools around the country so by the end, by 1981 one of every three medical schools in the country had been formed in the previous 25years.

Well, Morehouse. Yeah, school of medicine was one of those places having new schools and the way that happened was this. In the late 60s the Georgia Health Department looked at health manpower here in the state and they formed a committee co-chaired by a white physician Rhodes [Harverty 00:46:50] who at that time was Dean of the school of Allied Health of Georgia State University and Louis Brown, a black physician who is a practitioner here who was president of the Georgia State Medical Association which was an association of black physicians in the state.

They co-chaired this committee that issued its report in 196, pointed out the health of Georgians was below the national average; higher death rates from cancer, shorter life expectancy, stroke, heart disease, other conditions et cetera. They also noted that Georgia had 28% of its citizens were African American but only 2% of the physicians were African American, they also noted that the two medical schools in the state; Medical College of Georgia and Emory University that there more students Georgians going to Medical school than was the capacity of the two medical schools in the state.

In fact they noted that Georgia ranked 38 out of the 50 states in physicians per capita and so in the many small communities had no physician at all. And so they said Georgia needs to increase its number of physicians and their programs, federal programs now that would support that. They issued this report and then Louis Brown brought this report of the presidents of the nine university center schools because this Atlanta University Center had at that time consists of six institutions, four colleges; Morehouse, Spellman, Clarke, Morris Brown, and then the Atlanta University with the graduate school, then the school of theology; the interdenominational theological center.

While these schools were independent, had their own campuses, students, faculty, trustees et cetera they were all over the years, had really by design, become one large mega campus I hear. While there was a setup which really dated back to 1928, there was a lot of cooperation among the schools. Louis Brown came to a meeting with the council of presidents who met once a month to urge that they consider medical schools taking this report with it, so what he said was this, he said, “All around the country we have a shortage of black doctors, we need more doctors.

Here in Georgia, this has predicted all of that. Hear this report done by the committee of the Georgia Health Department I hear and said if there’s any place in the country that really has the capacity and the strength to start a medical school it is Atlanta University Center. He said, ”There’s no other place in the country that has these resources. Well the rules of the Atlanta University Center that date back to 1928 were as follows; Atlanta University was a graduate university and under the affiliation agreement would operate graduate and professional programs, the colleges would operate undergraduate programs. Atlanta University was the institution that would be the one we’ll look to this.”

Atlanta University wasn’t interested in that because they saw medical schools as troublesome, expensive institutions. Their faculties have big egos, their salaries are high, their laboratories are large and many universities with medical schools say “Gosh, we have 8-10 colleges here and the medical school takes half the budget et cetera.”

Tom Jared, who was president of Atlanta University at the time, who had been an English professor really wanted no part of this. He saw this as really an impossible thing to do, there had not been a new black medical school founded in the United States in the 20th century. Howard and [Mahory 00:50:53], the two black medical schools were founded in the 19th century; Howard opened in 1868 in Washington and Mahory in 1876 in Nashville.

They had been five other medical schools that were founded in the latter part of the 19th century but the Flexner report that was issued in 1910 was very critical of the quality of medical education in the early part of the century in the US, really there a lot of medical schools white and black who closed. Actually there had been five medical schools in Atlanta in the early part of the 19th century; The Atlanta Medical College, The Atlanta School of Medicine, there was The College of Physicians and Surgeons et cetera.

Well of those schools, three of those schools closed. The fourth school, the Atlanta School of Medicine, merged in 1912 with Atlanta Medical College and then in 1914 became affiliated with Emory University so that’s Emory Medical School today.

Flexner felt that the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta was too far away from the parent university in Athens for the university to exercise what it called Academic discipline. He recommended that that school be closed, that didn’t happen. They legislated to provide more funding and beefed up the school. But around the country there was this tremendous response to the Flexner report, Flexner had been supported by the Carnegie Foundation that was concerned about the quality of medical education because we really had a lot of proprietary medical schools, almost Diploma mills. You didn’t even have to have a high school diploma to enter medical school in the early part of the 20th century and this medic schools were owned by physicians who really did this or income. The curriculum was not standardized, there were no accrediting bodies et cetera.

The Flexner report started a whole chain of events that changed our medicine but five of the black medical schools had existed at the beginning of the 20th century closed by 1925. Those were [inaudible 00:53:05] university in Riding, North Carolina, there was one in Louisville, the Louisville National Medical School in Kentucky, one in New Orleans, one on Memphis, another in [Chadeluga 00:53:17]. Coming back to the second half of the 20th century with the expansion of medical education, the idea of forming a black medical school was a real challenge because everyone knew medical schools are expensive, difficult operations, et cetera so when Tom Jared was presented this idea, he went to his trustees and formed a feasibility committee.

That committee issued its report in April of 1971 and they said, “This is not something that Atlanta University is equipped to do.” Using that report, the trustees of Atlanta University voted not to proceed, that was important for Jared because Louis Brown and the other black physicians and the white physicians were with Rhodes Harvity supporting this idea were really pushing for this but with the feasibility study then the trustees voted not to proceed. At that meeting was Hugh [Gloster 00:54:19], President of Morehouse college because dating back to the affiliation agreement between Morehouse, Spellman and Atlanta University in 1928, the presidents of these schools set in on each other’s trustees needs because of their relationship over there so at that meeting when they voted.

Hugh Gloster asked if he might make a comment, he was permitted. He said, “Now that you’ve voted, I’d like to say Morehouse College has been following this and we have an interest here. We would like to pursue this now that you’ve decided that it’s not feasible. Would there be any objection to Morehouse College doing this?” There was none. He formed his own committee at Morehouse College and obtained funds from the federal government to do feasibility study in 1972. That was carried out by three faculty at Morehouse college; Judge Joseph Gales- Professor of Chemistry, Tom Norris-Chairman of Biology and Alice Green who is the Director of Development there along with consultation by Doctor Liam Benet of the Bureau of Health Manpower in Washington, they worked with him.

To make a long story short, they looked at this over a period of a one year and they determined that it was feasible and was needed. And they pointed out all this statistics of the shortage of black physicians, poor health status of blacks et cetera, et cetera, the fact that schools were opening all over the country and there was demand and Georgia really was among the states that had a great demand so they said, “This we should do.” They formed a committee after the feasibility study was reported; they formed a committee of Morehouse College alumni who were physicians in Academic medicine. I was invited to be a member of that committee, this was in 1974, 73.

I joined this committee coming from Boston and I had some questions myself. You see now, how is Morehouse going to start a medical school? Because one of the things that happened when I was a student at Boston University school of medicine, 54 to 58, there was some tension between the medical school and Boston University so much so that our dean [Jamey 00:56:46] Forkner had actually, with the support of the faculty, explored separating from Boston University and affiliating with another institution. He talked to people at MIT, Princeton, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and all of them said, “We’re not interested.”

And I understand he was told by people at Princeton that “If we were interested in medical school we would have started a medical school a long time ago.” Because, of course, Princeton being one of the wealthier universities et cetera but they just decided that they were not interested so that separation never occurred Boston University. Well, fast forward back to the early 70s here at Morehouse College, things like things were in the background which really made Tom Jared and Lenny [Ricig 00:57:39] very cautious but Hugh Gloster was very interested.

But Morehouse trustees’ and some of the alumni, including myself were saying “Ooh now, this is a high risk venture and really the college has been so successful. Why risk the college here because if this goes bad it might take the college under? “Well serving in this committee over the course of year I was turned around completely. I thought this was exciting, that Morehouse could do it, we had a strong premedical program, and I should have mentioned there were 60 in my graduating class from Morehouse in 1954, 20 of us were Premed, one third of us were Premed students, 18 of us went to medical school the next year the other two went to dental school.

In addition to Howard and [Mahory 00:58:27], I’d gone to Boston University, one of my classmates Perry Henderson went to Keith Western Reserve in Cleveland, Hank Foster went to University of [Irkinsaw 00:58:36] school of medicine. It was interestingly enough in 1954, Irkinsaw was admitting its third black student, well prior to Brown forcing the Board of Education, so Hank Foster went to University of Irkinsaw, Bill Jackson went to University of Illinois. We had done well and historically Morehouse had always trained a lot of its students who were successful in getting into medical school and et cetera.

As a member of this committee in 73/ 74, we said there’s a need, this is an institution that can do it and Hugh Gloster the president of the college was really deeply committed to it so they started recruitment for a dean and of course I went back to Boston and after a couple of weeks I thought of a number of people I thought could serve as dean. I sent down this list of names, we’d been asked to do by Joe Gales; I had 11 people I had identified around the country. Joe called me about 10 days later and said, “Look, thanks very much for your list. We’re very impressed by it but we’re a little bit surprised and a little bit disappointed that you sent us an incomplete list”

I said, “Joe, what the hell are you talking about? I sent you … ” I said, I interrupted myself, I said, “Oh no, wait a minute, now if you’re saying that I should be it … “ I said, “No, no, I’m not the man … ” I said, “Look, I’m a researcher. I’m very happy doing what I’m doing. My wife is from Massachusetts. I have three children all born here in Massachusetts and I don’t want to be a dean. I’m involved in my teaching and my research. Deans have to do a lot of fundraising and administrative things and I haven’t had any experience in.”

He said, “Well, this would be maybe a reason than you thought but you know in September, in about a month from now, our committee is having a meeting in New York in conjunction with the Trustees’ meeting in New York and we were wondering would you be willing to come down, not as a candidate but really as a consultant because you have a lot of good ideas we’d like to really have you chair with us about this medical school we’d like to develop. I said, “Okay Joe now as long as it’s clear I’m not a candidate I’ll be happy to come down as a consultant et cetera.”

Well that was a slippery slope because what was to be a two hour luncheon meeting with members of the committee turned out to be about a four hour discussion and in that meeting was not only Hugh Gloster the president of the cause. That’s when I first met him and then there was Arthur Richardson, Dean at Emory University School of medicine who was, Emory was supporting us in this effort. [Pere Galledi 01:01:26] who was Vice President for Biology and medicine at Brown, Pere had been at Emory before becoming Dean at Brown University so he was part of the committee that was working with them and Bill Benet from Bureau of Health Manpower there and some other Morehouse trustees, I guess they were about ten there.

Since I was not a candidate I didn’t hold back. They would raise some questions I’d say “Well I think that’s a good idea or sorry no, no I definitely don’t think this.” So I was really willing, Ginger had driven down with me mid-September with the gun driven down to the Merry Parkway and of course the fall color had developed and I really, by that time I had become a New Englander so I was really looking forward to the fall color. Ginger had ridden down with me and she visited with friends in the city while I was having this luncheon meeting. She came back at 2.30, called up to the room and I said, “Darling I’m sorry we are in the midst of something, could you come back in an hour?” She said, “Fine.” Then at 3.30 she came again and I said, “Darling I’m sorry, maybe in a half hour.”

Anyway, we had this intense discussion so at the end of the time Hugh Gloster then said, “Well Brother Sullivan.” We always called, he was an alumnus. He was the first alumnus to be president of a public college and he always referred to other Alumni as brothers. “Brother Sullivan, first of all thank you for coming down and spending this time with us. Your insight’s very important, very helpful to us and I find them very stimulating and I can’t speak for the committee but I just want you know I think you’re the man we need for this job. And so I hope that as you drive back to Boston, you’ll think about that because you could do your alma mater a great service and you could do an important thing if you were to agree to head this up.”

While driving up back to Boston, after about 20 minutes my wife changes this, “Well aren’t you going to tell me what happened?” so I said, “Well, you could consider the possibility of living in Atlanta?” She’s like, “I knew it, I knew it.” To ask Ginger who had never lived outside of Massachusetts, except when she lived with me in New Jersey when I was on the final with Steven Hall from 64 to 66 but at any rate she said, “I knew that this would happen, that they want you so … “ To make a long story short, at the end of that interview down there, I talked myself into it a job because I found this very exciting, got a good shift in career I knew I’d be leaving my research career behind because of the demands that are developing in medical school.

I had to learn new skills, and I, [inaudible 01:04:22] the administration and fundraising and so forth. But I found this such an exciting and important challenge that I undertook that. At any rate we started there and this really was a time that I worked closely with Hugh Gloster. He didn’t know anything about medical education but he knew a lot about fundraising, a lot about conflict resolution, how to negotiate and et cetera. The politics side as you know and I can deal with medicine because we have politics as you know. How do you really build a team and how do you really work through difficult situations? We had a great relationship I hear, so I started actually in September of 1975 I hear and that led to a tremendous experience.

When I started here at Morehouse College, we were special program within the college and Hugh Gloster and I worked well together. Started double trailers on the campus, there was no space for the medical school so we got this trailers temporary space and we really worked out with Joe Gales and the team here and I began to build a team. We got a grant, an 800, 000 dollar grant from the Bureau of Health Manpower to plan the development of this school. We worked very hard in recruiting faculty, staff and et cetera, meeting with accreditation officials to learn what were the criteria that we needed to meet in order to be accredited.

That was important because of course if you are to receive federal funds; you have to have an accredited operation. We worked hard and we developed the plan to start as a two year medical school but then to evolve from that into a four year school by that we want that we would admit students and provide the first two years of education which are primarily basic sciences, lectures and laboratory exercises, and learning things such as physique diagnosis, how do you do a physical examination? How do you interview a patient et cetera? But the last two years of medical school are primarily in the clinical field; working on the hospital wards or in clinics or in offices working with patients.

That was easier for Morehouse to really start as a two year school because we’ve had to develop clinical affiliations as well as a clinical faculty there. That’s how we started, so were approved actually in April of 1978 to begin a two year program of medical education. Our first class enrolled at Morehouse in the fall of 1978, 24 students. We were very pleased; we had 14 men and 10 women. There were so many things that we had to do of course, looking at a medical curriculum , deciding what would be the admissions criteria, establishing tuition, establishing student financial aid programs, promotions and evaluations committees, all things that really in a sense were new to me.

As a medical faculty, I’d been involved in them but I was involved in ongoing operations not setting them up but that was very exciting and we were very pleased we were able to recruit a good core of faculty and I found that you will recruit people who are risk takers and that were [early years 01:08:04]. People who were tenured faculty at places, they would not see this as something they wanted to really risk though because of course the question was “Would we be there next year et cetera?”

When we received accreditation approval in April 78, that was a major event so we admitted our students there and by this time we had worked out contractual arrangements with four medical schools to take our students into the third year there that’s because we wanted to and this was a requirement of the accrediting committee, that we would have such arrangements, that we could guarantee any student admitted into our program that they did well admittedly that they would really be accepted into the third year elsewhere.

Those contracts were with Emory School of Medicine, University of Alabama in Birmingham, Howard University in Washington DC and The Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, so those four schools provided the contractual arrangements so that helped us with our accreditation. Though in practice when it came to the first class transferring, they not only went to those schools, they went elsewhere. Brown University, Illinois and elsewhere because the students could go anywhere but the requirement of the accrediting committee was that any student admitted should really have an unimpeded path to the MD degree as long as they have satisfactory academic performance.

That’s how we got started and we had Paul Rodgers who was chairman of the Health Committee in the US congress come down to be our keynote speaker when we opened in September 1978, that we were very pleased with because of course he among members of Congress were important in the funding of medical education including the new medicals that were being developed all over the country. You recall that Mercer also started the medical school that admitted its first class three years later in 1981.

Well we had a very nice ceremony for that then two years later in 1980 we broke ground for our first building. We had found land next to Morehouse College to build a medical school; we had also developed plans for the medical school in time to become independent from Morehouse College. There were a number of reasons for that; among them was the fact that these questions about the wisdom of Morehouse College doing this with there and the trustees of the college while supportive were also nervous I hear.

Also from my standpoint I found that being part of the college restrictive, I came here with a salary cut of 3000 dollars back then in 1975 because at the time in Boston University my salary was 45,000 dollars. In today’s terms that doesn’t seem like a lot but that was a pretty good salary back in 1975. Well when I first told Hugh Gloster what my current salary was he almost fainted so he said, “We can’t pay that.” And that started a long process so I ended up coming here at 42,000 dollars, by that time I was so committed to this that while that was really a little of a sacrifice and much more of an annoyance, I was very committed to this so I came.

That was one thing but also the college was concerned with all of the resources being drained off for the medical school and so forth, so because of those reasons as well as the affiliation agreement of Atlanta University center. That was another factor because one of the things that happened was this, all the Atlanta university trustees had voted in April 71 not to proceed and voice no objection to Morehouse looking at this. When I was appointed Dean, the Vice Chairman of the board of Atlanta university Trustees’ Grace Hamilton , who was a very powerful and important figure here in Atlanta in the black community but also she was in the state legislature, she really objected to this saying, “This is not something Morehouse College should be doing on the Affiliation agreement.”

I participated in a meeting if the trustees, of the executive committee of the trustees of Atlanta University and the Executive Committee of the trustees of Morehouse College in a discussion as to “Is Morehouse in violation of the articles of affiliation?” And in that meeting, Hugh Gloster pointed out, “This is what happened in April 71, we raised the question there was no objection, so on the basis of that we proceeded here. The school is important; Morehouse College’s intention is not to operate a medical school permanently but to get the school started. It will become independent in time so … “

There so many reasons, internal and external, for this to happen so that’s the plan that we developed. In April of 1980, we had a groundbreaking ceremony for a new building with the rest of the funds we had purchased the land and we had Governor George Busby as a keynote speaker at that ground breaking. In 81 we became independent from Morehouse College and that’s when our name changed from School of Medicine at Morehouse College to Morehouse School of Medicine. In July of 82 we had the dedication of this new building and we had Don Keel, president of Coca Cola who chaired our fundraising campaign for raising 2million dollars towards funding for this new building and we had a 5million dollar federal grant that also for the building.

That was a happy time that we had and I talk in my autobiography about what happened, Don Keel came over for a luncheon that we were having for the members of the fundraising committee two weeks before the official dedication program for the building and of course Don arrived early and my office was about 10 minutes away. My facilities director called me and said, “Don Keel is here. He’s early and he’s walking through the buildings.” I rushed over but by the time I got there he’d been through the building and he said, “Louis, this is a very nice building. I’m really pleased that we are really part of this.” He says, “But you know there was a strange vending machine in one of these halls.”

I say, “Uh oh” He said, “And that P-E-P-S-I, do you know what that is?” I was so embarrassed, I said, “Don, I didn’t know anything about this but whatever it is it will be out of here before sundown.” I called my Facilities Director and say, “What the hell is this?” so he hadn’t paid any attention but the contractor had had this machine put in for his men to have access to this but anyway it was out of there. But during the luncheon we had wine from Members’ committee; we had a number of Atlanta business men who were part of this committee pour the wine. Don said, “Let me, may I see the label?”

The waiter wore a white napkin holding the wine, turns outs it was Barrager Chardonnay so Don turns and says, “Louis, have you ever heard of Sterling Vineyards?” I said, “No,” He says, “Sterling is a nice vineyard out in the Napa Valley. Coca Cola owns them.” That’s when he turned to his aide who was behind him John was his name, he says, “John get together with Dr. Sullivan and say next time he’s going to be out in the California area, arrange a tour for him at the Sterling Vineyards.” I am now so embarrassed, here’s a guy who’s raised, led the effort to raise 2million dollars for us saw two faux pas; that Pepsi machine and now we had the wrong wine.

But Don really, he was a good guy and basically he was pulling my leg on both of these but that was a bitter lesson at the time. At the dedication of that building two weeks later, we had Vice President George Bush as our speaker, that’s when I first met him. He had a great time afterwards, had a great reception, and in the library of a building-we hadn’t yet moved into the building- and so he was [Andy Young 01:17:06] with Ed McIntyre the black mayor from Augusta, John Lewis, Joseph Laurie, all the other leaders in the black community here at this building getting their pictures taken with this Republican Vice President et cetera.

Bush had a great time, he was supposed to stay 15minutes he ended up staying more than an hour, the staff really ended up almost pulling him out, he had to go to New Orleans to give a talk that day. As he left one of his aides pressed something in my hand said, “The Vice President wants you to have this.” Looking at a pair of Vice Presidential cufflinks. Two weeks later I got a call from him on Friday afternoon, at about 3 o’clock in the afternoon, I’m working trying to get some things finished before the weekend. My secretary buzzed me and says, “The Vice President is on the line.”

I say, “What Vice President?” She says, “How quickly we for … “ I say, “Oh” So I pick up the telephone and he said, “Louis , I’m planning this trip to Africa in November and if you’d be willing to do this I’d like to have you go with me as a member of my delegation.” I said, “Gosh Mr. Vice President, Thank you. This will be quite an honor but then I’ll look at my schedule I think I could be … but since I’m not in government what would be my role being member of your delegation?”

He said, “Lou, to be honest with you, we don’t have an [Andy Young 01:18:30] in our administration because Andy had been so prominent in the Carter administration and I feel I can go to Sub Sahara Africa without prominent African Americans as part of my delegation. So you do me a big favor but more importantly you do the country a service if you’d be willing to go represent our country.” I appreciated his honesty so I went and that November Barbra was on that trip, that’s when I met her. Visited eight countries over a two week period and I had learnt of Barbra’s interest in adult literacy because while Bush was meeting with the heads of state, she would be talking to some adult literacy groups because its illiteracy in these African countries was really quite a problem.

On the way back, I talked with her I said, “Barbra, you and I are in the same business just different branches. You’re in adult literacy education, I’m in medical education. We need to have you on our board. Would you be willing to …? “She said, “Lou I don’t know about that, everything I do these days has to pass through the White House council and frequently don’t let me do things like this but let me look at this then we’ll see.” While I thought, “Gee, what a sophisticated, nice brush off.”

Anyway, we got back to Andrew’s Airport Base on Wednesday before thanksgiving there in 1972, I’m sorry, in 1982, and so the following Tuesday she called me, she said, “I can do it.” I said, “That’s great” So she is elected to our board, in January of 83, and served for 6years until 1989. During that time she missed one meeting, she was a working trustee. She wasn’t simply symbolic trustee, she was very, work very hard, she was very helpful to us. For example, we had our first national fundraising campaign starting in early 1984 so she was our speaker as we had luncheons in San Francisco, Minneapolis, in Miami, in New York, et cetera.

We had a goal of 15million dollars and we raised 18million dollars. The chairman of my campaign was Bob Frockey, who was one of our trustees; he had been Secretary of the Army under Nickson and Ford and also a great friend of Mel Liard who was Secretary of Defense while he was there. That really helped us to a great, great start here. And the medical school I was pleased we developed over the years we received approval to operate all four years in 1981 starting in 81 so the class that entered that year which was the fourth class we admitted stayed with us for the full four years so the first MDs granted by Morehouse School of Medicine was April 1985, so that again was a great, great year.

And so we were doing really well in launching the class size, we had the equal number of women as men, among other things that we had to do as we were developing our facilities on the campus of Morehouse College starting in 1978. We had to build lavatories for women; Morehouse College was an all male school. The only female lavatory was in the faculty lounge there on campus so that was one of the things that we had to do, a number of other things that we did in developing the school but we had high standards.

I said, “We’re developing this school, I want it to be a sound school, students get a solid education because I want people to know if a Morehouse graduate takes care of them, they can have full confidence.” But then beyond that I said, “I want this to make a statement to the nation because even today there’s always this question about is the quality of black institutions really up to snuff with all the all the strongest white institutions. I said, “I didn’t mean for this school to have the same standards I hear.” so we worked to bring in strong faculty, strong research programs as well as educational programs and to see that on national examinations that our students would do well and it turned out high passing rate, 98/99 would pass our national board examinations et cetera.

 The school has really done well with its graduates and we’ve also produced a high percentage of our graduates going into primary care so for me personally, this again was a vindication of why I went into medicine in the first place. I’d gotten the verdict to become an academician but really in the larger sense I was really helping contribute to even more black physicians and more diversity in the health professions but when Barbra came on our board that meant that Ginger and I were constantly being invited to events at the Vice Presidents home in Washington.

One of my trustees had desperately wanted to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, and he had been a finalist in 1985. One of the three finalists but he didn’t get it but when Bush was running in 88, Monroe my trustee spoke with me and said, “Lou, I think Bush might win this and I might have another shot at this, will you be supportive of this?” I said, “Sure. I think you’d be a great Secretary.”

He was the executive vice president for a pharmaceuticals company and I thought that he might be a good president. He was an MD from Connecticut active in republican politics so I spoke to Bush and said “This is one of my trustees I think you have met him at one of the meetings of the executive committee that Barbara hosted there at your home. And he was a finalist in 1985 when Otis Boyne was chosen but he is very good.”

He said “Well fine let me take a good at this and if we should win this election” to make a long story short about a month before the election in 88, I was in New York, I passed a clothing shop called [inaudible 01:25:00] on 5th avenue. I spotted a red tie, I’m sorry a blue tie in the window with red elephants on it. So I bought it and I sent it with a note to the vice president and I said wear this on Election Day, it will bring you good luck.” And sure enough when they were showing the election returns with him, he was wearing that tie.

So I called him the next morning after he’d been declared the winner and I said “Congratulations Mr. President, I see you followed my advice with my tie, so that’s great.” I remember we talked about Monroe would be a great secretary, well qualified” “Oh yeah Lou I know, but I was thinking, I need to talk with you about this, would you be willing in about two weeks when things have settled down, would you be willing to come out to Washington, we need to talk about this.” I said “sure.”

What the hell do you mean by that, how do we talk about positioning Monroe, does he mean that he wants to talk with me, maybe I’m imagining things. So I was like, he wants to talk with me, so sure enough when I went up, that’s when he said he wanted me to be secretary. Meanwhile I anticipating this possibility I had talked to my chairman of the board and I said “I’m not sure about this.” He said “well let’s just wait and see.”

And so when that happened, I said “Mr. Vice President I would be honored but let me think about this and I’ll get back to you.” Among my major thoughts at the time were the following; one, I was solely committed to, I was very happy with doing what I was doing. Pleased with what the [scholar 01:26:44] medical school was developing, being they had been Monroe who I thought would be a great secretary. My plan was with Bush in the White House and Monroe as secretary, I’d have complete access.

Thirdly; I had never served in a government position, I’d have to uproot my family and fortunately my children were all off in college or had graduated college by this time. And talked to Ginger about this and she said well let’s wait and see what happens. The other concern I had was this, at that time, the Georgia Legislature was still a democratic organization. Tom Murphy was our speaker and I developed a great relationship with him with other members of the legislature had gotten great support for the school. Although the medical school was a private institution we were given very good generous state support, I didn’t want to spoil that here because this would have been devastating had we lost that support.

So I went to see Tom Murphy, so I said “Mr. Speaker I want to get your advice, you have been a great friend to Morehouse etcetera but our new incoming president wants me to serve as his secretary of health and his [inaudible 01:28:00]. And I wanted to, what do you think about that?” I remember tom Murphy was about 6‘2 wore Cowboy hats, cowboy buckles and cowboy boots and he chewed tobacco.

So I asked him, he pulled this [inaudible 01:28:16] tobacco out of his pocket, took out a pocket knife and cut of a wedge and stuck it in his cheek. I think this took a total of a minute, a minute and a half but it seemed like a half hour. So he took a couple of chews and said “Well, if I a new president want you to do that Lou I don’t think you have any choice. You don’t turn down a president. Plus so far as I’m concerned it’s not a dimes worth of difference between Bush and [Decoucus 01:28:44] anyway.” that’s how I learned he didn’t like [Decocus 01:28:47]. So he wasn’t upset about Bush or me going to, so that was his way of blessing me.

So I did and I meet with some other people too but that was the most important thing because Murphy had been a legislature for 24-25 years, he was more powerful than the governor in terms of getting legislation through. So I went to Washington in 1989 and really again this is a new phase for me in my life. Ginger was very supportive as she always been supportive of me in my career moves and to here. But I was very much aware that this was a huge agency because when he first meet with me Bush said “I would love to have you as secretary although I have to tell you in all fairness, this is a complicated department and I’m wondering if I’m really doing you a favor or not.”

But I was interested and committed to what the department was doing and knowing that this department influences the lives of all Americans so I went. I met with not only during my pride of my confirmation, I went around and met with members of the senate on my confirmation hearing as well as with the various health organizations like American hospital associations and the AMA and all these other organizations I’d be dealing with and etcetera.

The white house actually assigned a staff member to me to help navigate me through this. And also Allen Simpson who was the Republican whip in the senate, close friend with Bush also took me around to meet the members of the senate Al Specter, Jesse Helms, all these other people. So this was really quite an experience but when I was confirmed then we had the ceremony when President Bush came over with Barbara from my swearing in at the department, that was a very nice.

Over the next twenty months worked very hard to get to know the programs of the department to get to know the people. So I met with the senior leadership, about 300 people and I said, I was very open, I said “Well as this is my first time in a government position, large department, there is a lot that I have to learn and you have the information and the expertise and I want this to be a partnership and I want you to share with me your concerns, you recommendations, your suggestions because my door will always be open. I want this department to succeed. And in order for that to occur you and I need to work together. So I need to get the good news as well as the not so good news and so you will know that you will always be welcome.”

The other things that I did since I, my wife and I had started back in 1970s started walking every morning primarily for fitness, to really help with weight control. And we found we’d love doing this, so this had become quite a habit by 1989 when I went to Washington. So I told the members in my department, I walk every morning and if you would want to join me for a walk, you are welcome. I would go around the country visiting regional offices, I will invite members there.

So that gesture really worked a lot better than I even imagined. Because I was telling the people in the department that I was approachable but I didn’t come in with a lot of fixed ideas about how I’m going to fix things but I really wanted to work with them. During my time as secretary, I think I developed a very good relationship with members of the department. I was very vigilant in smoking, I spoke out against tobacco use because of its fact then and even today, the number one cause of preventable death in the country. Not only cancer but heart disease, stroke other cancers etcetera.

I also worked to introduce a new food label so the people can know what’s in the food that they are eating, that was a major challenge there as well. I worked; I initiated a minority male initiative, a hundred million dollars that we allocated to that over a three year period because of the problem of boys growing up without fathers in the home and all the things that lead to high school drop outs, violence, etcetera, so the number one things that we did.

I was also committed to getting more diversity in the department because when I went up to meet the president elect Bush in Washington when he offered me the position I said well “Mr. President elect I would be honored but I’d like to know what your priorities are and I would like you to know some of the things that I would like to do?” And I said “I’d like to head more minorities more women in positions of leadership.” He said “Lou I support you in that, I’m all for that and etcetera.”

When I accepted the position I would have his backing so among the things that I was able to do, I appointed the first woman head of national institute of health Dr. Bernadine Healy from the Cleveland clinic, the first female surgeon general Dr Antonio Novelo who was at the NIH, the first black to head social society, black woman Gwendolyn King then the first black to head the healthcare financial association Medicare and Medicaid, now the name is now CMS, center for Medicare services. And for various committees, in the department, we had more than 250 programs in his department and the 600 billon dollar budget.

By the time I left more houses our budget was less than a 100 million. So of course this was another leap up. But basically what I found was the principals of leadership and management that I found at Morehouse, really worked will at HHS also. That is building a team, inviting people’s ideas and really giving them a chance to develop and supporting them to. All of those things worked for me. We did a number of things there when I was the secretary that I’m proud of.

We actually pushed health promotion disease prevention, we released the report ‘Healthy People 2000’ in September of 1990; goals that we wanted to reach by the year 2000 such people using seat beats in their cars. Then it was less than 50% of drivers were using seat belts well now that is more than 90% of our drivers. So we said this is really a health issue because we use seat belts, the chances of being killed or badly injured are much greater there.

So my time in Washington was another new kind of experience that I was the one black in bush’s cabinet there. And I also learned that health services were the largest budget of any federal agency. Most people thought it was the department of defense but my budget was 600 billion, defense was 400 billion dollars because we had not only the public health services, CDC, FDA etcetera, but social services, Medicare, Medicaid, all these other programs, welfare, etcetera.

So it’s impossible to really manage all those programs, so what you are really doing is managing people, choosing good people really supporting them challenging them holding them to high standards. When you get into trouble you support them and if there is a problem, if they are not really doing the things that they are trying to do, you try and correct them if indeed you can do that. Then in my view you change people when there is no other option that is you don’t abandon people when trouble arises here.

Overall I had a great experience in Washington, Ginger also had a great experience because she was involved in so many things with spouses of other cabinet secretaries, international affairs, ambassadors and other international other heads of state would visit, frequent the reception at the White House or at some of the German Embassy or what have you. So for her this was also a great experience.

Among the perks we had, there was a presidential box at the Kennedy center and of course the president wouldn’t use that every night. So as members of the cabinet on a first come first served basis, we would have use of the president’s box. So I would invite friends from Atlanta to come up for some symphony or some play at the Kennedy center and use the president’s box so that was a lot of fun.

That is a great experience and I feel a good about what we did at the department. Still great friendships with the Bush’s and the fact Ginger and I would be visiting them alter up in Kennebunkport, Maine we keep in touch with them and also other members of the cabinet and members of the department where I forged a lot of friendships there.

But when Bush lost the elections which we were working very hard to get him reelected, we thought that he would be reelected because at the end of the first gulf war, remember his ratings were 91-92%. But that faded awfully fast because the economy while improving was really in a recession so he lost that. But when that happened, actually during 92, during the election, I got a call from [Reverend Leon Sullivan 01:39:06], African American minister who was in Philadelphia, Leon Sullivan had been, was the first black elected to the board of General Motors’ because he was the one who advocated for US companies divesting in South Africa because of the apartheid principals.

I knew Leon Sullivan, I had chaired on his foundation before I went into Washington, he called me I think it was in June or July of 92, he says “where are you going?” I said “what are you talking about?” “What are you going to do?” I said “right now I’m working to get president Bush reelected.” He says “so are you going to stay?” I said “Well that’s my intention.” He said “Well, okay but if you change your mind and etcetera, if you decide you are leaving first call you make, you call me.” I said “Okay Leon” I had no idea what he was talking about.

Well the election came and Bush lost, Leon Sullivan called and said “Lou I want to come in and see you.” I said “Fine.” He said “I want to bring Jack Smith with me.” I said “Who’s Jack Smith?” “He’s the new CEO at general motors, I want to bring him, I want to talk to you.” So about a month later, he came in, actually John [inaudible 01:40:16] he’s an executive chairman so they recruited me to serve on the board of General Motors. I accepted and so when I left Washington in January 20th in 1993, I went on the GM board.

By that time several other companies had approached me too. I went on the board of 3M, Bruce Meyers, [Quib 01:40:38] and Equifax here in Atlanta and so then Georgia Pacific and a couple of other companies, household international here. But I came back to Morehouse school of medicine because a fellow who had succeeded me Jim Goodman as president had decided in the summer of 92 that he wanted to move to Seattle so he stepped down as president. We had an interim president appointed Nelson McGee.

So the trustees of the college approached me similar to Leon Sullivan. But I said “Oh gee, I can’t make any commitment, I’m working for Bush’s reelection and if he’s reelected I don’t know what he’s plans are but I don’t want to be incumbent if he asked me to stay on I would be willing to do that maybe for another year, year and a half so into his new administration. So I think you ought to proceed with the search.

Well when Bush lost, I got a call from Jim Hayes who was the chairman of the board of the trustees of medical school so I came back to Morehouse; I was pleased to come back, returning home. So I came back and served until the year 2002. By thing time the school was doing well, we had gotten the maximum 8 years accreditation, the maximum that we could get so I thought that really was time for new leadership. So I announced that I would be stepping down as soon as we had recruited a new president here but I thought it really was time for that for that turnover.

So things at the medical school that I’m really proud of, what our graduates have done that is the most significant measure of any institution, what do its graduates do etcetera. We’ve had although the school is still young, it’s now 35 years old, we have had a surgeon general its one of our graduates, Regina Benjamin who served until just a few months ago, then the president of another medical school Wayne Wright became the president, [inaudible 01:42:42] college medicine.

We have had large percentage of our students who’ve gone into primary care, that is family medicine, pediatrics, general and internal medicine and have settled in to serve medical areas. In rural communities in Georgia and elsewhere and some inner city communities as well, so I feel that the school is addressing its mission.

We also have a faculty that’s been successful in competing for NIH research grants. We have established the Neuroscience Institute; the first such institute at a black school in the country. Cardio vascular research institute and the head of that institute was recruited about a year and a half ago to be the director of national institute for heart and blood diseases at NIH, our premier research agency in the country.

I feel that we as a young school are doing well and have done well and for me the important thing is to have an institution that’s relevant to the community, that’s contributing to the community. Because what I say is this during the span of my life I’ve gone from growing up in a rigidly segregated repressive environment to now an open supportive environment.

First of all that happened with Boston, but when I came back to Atlanta 21 years later, the environment has changed because when I came back to Atlanta 21 years later the environment has changed because I was supported not only by black physicians but by white physicians and by others in the community. So I say the story of my life and Morehouse School of medicine is one of significance social change that made these things possible.

And now in turn Morehouse school of medicine with this activity, with its graduates, and by the way we have always been an integrated institution, although we are predominately black we have white students from the beginning. I think we had 6 white students in our first class; we had students who had grown up in Pakistan and Tanzania etcetera. So while our focus has been increasing the percentage of black physicians really having an integrated student body and an integrated faculty as well.

In a sense what pleases me and what I’m proud of is Morehouse school of medicine having been developed under the circumstances that it developed is contributing to improving our society here in Atlanta and in Georgia and around the country. The other thing that I would say is this, I was very lucky in, really, the woman I was able to convince to marry me, Ginger, she has really been the center of gravity for our family because I’m sure it would surprise you to say that with all these things that I’ve been involved in, she’s constantly on a plane going someplace.

So she was the one who really was there for me as well for our three children and so she’s always supported me regardless of what it was because she hadn’t thought of moving to the south or becoming wife of a dean of a medical school or taking a risk like that. Because I really had, I had a really safe career by the time I became the professor of medicine at Boston University. I knew the field; my goal at the time was to become chairman of the department of medicine by age 45. Well by age 41 I came back here as a founding dean of a new medical school.

Through all of this she’s been supportive for example she formed here at Morehouse School of medical a support group called The Friends of the Morehouse School of medicine. They would have an annual dinner and other activities throughout the year for scholarships for our students. She did this totally as a volunteer here and helping me with the school. So she has been great and I’m proud of my three children because as I mentioned my oldest son Paul is a physician himself; radiologist in Dallas, we have two grandsons now ten and eleven and a half that he’s given us. His wife Laurie is a pharmacist as well and my daughter Shanty who’s the apple of my eye she’s an actress living in Los Angeles and so she’s very active with her various careers possibilities there.

And then my son Hasten who has finished Westminster school here and then went on to university of Virginia then to Harvard law school. But he decided before he graduated from law school, he really didn’t want to practice law. When he told us that he was surprised, he surprised us, he said he wanted to become a comedian, so that was a real surprise. He ended up becoming a comedy writer, he became of the co-producers of this television show ‘The Office’ where they had a run for a number of years, last may, just a year ago closed. But he has now written some other television shows that he’s negotiating to getting done produce.

So my children have done well so it’s really been rewarding for me in my career. My brother is still alive, a year and a half older and we have a great relationship here, he, I was able to recruit him to join me at the medical school back in the early 80s to become the director of our federal programs, because he is a chemist by training. He got a PhD in physical organic chemistry from Ohio State and worked at Rohm and Haas Chemicals and then became the chairman of chemistry down at ANT College, North Carolina and served as dean at Fort Valley state university for a time.

Then in the early 80s I recruited him to become director of our federal program at Morehouse and he’s retired from that but he is still active there. So overall I’m pleased with my career, the only regret that I have is everything I’ve done, I’ve enjoyed, whether I was teaching students, doing research, taking care of patients, who love to take care of patients see people improve, dealing with diagnostic issues etcetera to then becoming an administrator. What I really thought was something that I was interested in, I really enjoyed that, developing an institution, to develop an institution that hopefully would be around hundred years, two hundred years from now here.

In a sense I have been lucky and I had good mentors all along who really inspired me to stretch, to really take risk, to really try to make a difference and I found that fulfilling. People have often said “Well you are a workaholic” I say “It’s only work if you are not enjoying it and I’m enjoying what I’m doing and as long as I get that feed back to me that’s my pay off.” And I feel that all along, starting with my parents I just had the right kind of support and advice and I took advantage of that and I hope to pass some of that on to the next generation.

When I started the medical school at Morehouse, being a hematologist, I thought I could do hematology consultations because I enjoyed seeing patients and thought I couldn’t be helpful there. Well after a few months it was clear to me that wasn’t going to work and I said well my value to this institution is not as a hematologist, it’s really developing the institution, the pans, recruiting the faculty, developing the curriculum, getting accredited, raising the funds. These are things that only I could do.

We can get other people to do hematology and as much as I enjoyed it and its personal fulfillment, the time I spent in hematology, the time I’m taking away from these other things. So my regret was that I couldn’t be involved in teaching students or taking care of patients or doing research and raising funds and cultivating donors and meeting with architects and so forth because building an institution is a lot of things, from buying the land, getting permits to take trees down which I learned in Atlanta is not the easiest thing. And I’m please with that but as you know the city is committed to that.

So there are so many things but I found the central thing for me was building a team, building a team with the institution and the faculty and staff that are committed to the institution and building a team of supporters outside the institution because any institution that’s viable and important really depends upon a lot of people in the community and around the country who support what you are doing, whether they are giving funds or whether they are helping with legislation that’s important to you.

So that’s where I felt where that’s where my value added, that was something that I need and I had to do so things that took away from that, even though I enjoyed them personally, I know that is not really the things that is going to build an institution. So that is what I meant by that, I regretted the fact that I couldn’t do it all but at the same time I realized that there was not a rational thing to expect that I could do all those things simultaneously.

Don Keough had a great impact on our institution and on me. First of all as you know Coca-Cola is the leading institution, company here in Atlanta and really around the country. And so they are a corporation that’s really has a very strong corporate responsibility culture. Having Don as the lead of the fund raising efforts really meant that not only what he could bring in terms of funds of the table but the endorsement of the business community.

So that helped legitimize this new untested organization there. So there no in no question that Don Keough and the Coca-Cola Company and also the Wotcher Foundation over in the philanthropic side was important. I described in my autobiography my first meeting with both Lee Jones who were the president of the Wotcher foundation. The Wotcher foundation was very important, very solid foundation but they tend not be the initiator of things. They will support you once you have established and shown that you are viable ongoing organization. So that was my experience there.

So my first introduction to Lee Jones was welcoming me to Atlanta and wishing me well but also say you should know we have one medical school we’re supporting and that takes almost everything that we have an then more, so I hope you know that you can count on us for support” I said “Oh my goodness.” Well it turns out our first piece of land back in 1978, 77 actually was purchased with the 250,000 dollar grant from the Wotcher Foundation because by that time we had shown that this was a serious effort, this was a quality effort so they then supported us. They supported Morehouse since that time, so I had to learn all these things and I had to establish our [bonafides 01:54:54] in the corporate world as well as in the philanthropic world and in the academic work.

President Bush is quite a guy, his public picture that most people have really so different from him in private. He wears these red socks or argyle socks or things with funny stripes, cowboy boots etcetera. And he has a great sense of humor. And what was frustrating for me and my fellow members of the cabinet, television cameras, he was never comfortable with them. We would be sitting around a cabinet room before starting a cabinet meeting joking etcetera and then Marlin Fitzwater, our press secretary says “photographers” that means he was going to bring in the photographers. A shade had been drawn down over and he was still, not comfortable, not smiling and so not eloquent.

So that was frustrating to us because this was a different person from the one we knew, but he had a great sense of humor, enjoys life and as you know jumped out of a plane on his 90th birthday. I sent4 him an email saying ‘congratulations on your successful jump and I’m pleased that it went so well.’ And so sent back a message saying thanks Lou, I know a lot of people think I’m nuts but I plan on doing this again when I’m a hundred.

So yeah, he is quite a guy, we got to be very good friend and I also learned that when he was ma student at Yale, he lead, he was a student leader of the annual negro college fund effort; raising funds. And he formed friendship with Dr. Trent who is a founder of the UNCF, he and his family have been very supportive of higher education in general including black higher education because we, I’m pretty sure that this still occurs over in the medical school. But every year, early December we would get a check unsolicited from his personal check as a contribution to the medical school. And of course Barbara was a hard working trustee on our board there.

On a trip to Africa, there were three African Americans, Rob Fletcher who had been secretary of labor under Nixon and Benjamin Peyton who was president of Tuskegee University. He had spoken, this is now in November of 82 a year before October of 81, he had spoken at Ben Peyton’s’ inauguration as president the Tuskegee and of course he had spoken at the dedication of our building in July of 82.

The other thing that most people do not know and I talked with him during the campaign when things were really starting to look a little dicey; his mother was one of the founding directors of the United Negro College Fund when they were founded in the late 40s. But not only that since then continuously to this day a member of the Bush family has been on the board of the UNCF; the current member is Jonathan Bush in Boston who is head of a company, I’m trying to remember the name of it a data collections services they support NPR announced there.

So things like that, when things weren’t looking, I went to him and said “Mr. President you’ve got to let people know what you are doing in the black community, education is so important. They don’t know that your mother was one of the founders of the UNFC, that the members of the Bush family.” And he said “Lou I don’t do this for political reasons, I’m not going to do that.” I said “Look I know you don’t do it for political reasons but what people want to know are what are you values, what do you stand for? That’s important to people.” I could never get him to do it. So anyway we are good friends we see them usually a couple of times a year and so we will be visiting them I think it’s August 27th, we are going up to have lunch with them up in Kennebunkport. He is quite a guy and Barbara is quite a girl too, she really is, quite a personality.

[Edward Northrop 01:59:37] had another career, I think it was an architect at George Tech. he developed this technique for carving wooden bowls, beautiful wooden bowls and they have one at Atlanta History Center. They also have one at the [inaudible 01:59:59] art center, and these are all woods that grow in Georgia. And so Ed Northrop developed this and Ed died of maybe 8 or 9 years ago, Philip Northrop his son is a lawyer wasn’t interested in this growing up but he became, he sort it himself I think in his late 20s, so he’s developed these bowls.

These bowls are now in the collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, in the Smithsonian, they have them in the white house collection, they sell them out in Gump’s in San Francisco and the signature galleries here up on Peach street also sell them. To make a long story short, they are really among the most talented or woodcarvers around the country. They have a coffee table book called Northrop Bowls.

When we went up there to visit the Bush’s I took a book, two books because actually for the fundraiser campaigns and other things, we would give to the campaign leadership these beautiful carved bowls as a thank you; really beautiful things. So we went up with an offer from Philip Northrop and his son, I don’t know why I’m blanking out on his sons name because Philip himself is no maybe around 60 and his son is now 35 or so, the son is no 3rd generation.

They wanted to contribute a bowl from each, Philip and his son, for each of the Bush libraries. So went up with this message and president Bush 41 was there but W wasn’t in Maine yet, he has a home just about, less than half a mile away from Walkers point which is the home of President Bush S. So at lunch I mentioned this and so Barbara said “that’s great we accepted, so she accepted on behalf of both the libraries there. So they are great people and really …

I also should have mentioned that when he was running for the presidency in 88, in June of 88 we had a reception here in my home for him. He couldn’t come down because he had an … but actually Barbara came down and the purpose of that was to introduce him to the black community. You probably know the black community didn’t view the Regan administration as very sympathetic towards their concerns.

And so a lot of people in the black community just considered Bush as a clone of Regan and I felt differently. So I told him “I would like to have a reception to introduce you to the black community here in Atlanta. And you know that community is important because we have friends all over the country.” because when Jimmy Carter was running for president, you remember the peanut bridge, I was still in Boston at the time, they went all over the country telling the black community, the peanut farmer, he is a great guy and he is interested and supportive of our issues.

 And so I wanted to generate some of that support for Bush here. But he’s really a great person, very strongly interested in education and even his son, you may remember Jeb Bush strongly interested in education and W; he developed this educations plan ‘No Child Left Behind’ there was a controversy about that but the fact is, interest in education. And W also established PEPFAR the president emergency funds for AIDs relief in Africa etcetera. So there is a very strong humanitarian value system that they have.

In early of my tenure, in 1989, I went with them on a Marine, the helicopter, we went over to Baltimore; we spoke at the centurial celebration of John Hopkins university where he spoke. And on the way back where he spoke at 12:00 or so, he said “What are you plans this afternoon?” and I said “Well I’m going at 2:00 we are swearing in a new [inaudible 02:04:25] administrator for Medicare, Gail Wilensky he said “really? What’s her name, Gail, how do you spell Gail?” he whipped out his notepad with a note saying ‘Hi Gail, congratulations on becoming [inaudible 02:04:42] administrator. Great to have you on our team, good luck to you, George Bush.”

So two hours later I was presenting his to Gail at the swearing in and you know that was something. So he was always doing things like that. Another time when there was the Los Angeles riots; I went out I went with him there. There were some I think a fireman and a policeman who were injured during some of those riots. I went to the hospital to visit with them and he sat and he stayed there. He must have stayed there maybe 20-25 minutes; he was talking with them etcetera.

The other thing that we knew that this got to him and the rest of us almost choked up, in January, I guess it was January of 09 when W was in the end of his tenure, at the dedication of the aircraft carrier George H. Bush Norfolk. So Ginger and I were up for that, quite a glorious ceremony with this huge city floating on a ship etcetera. But they had at the end of the ceremony which I guess was not quite over, they had this fly over, these procession fliers there and after they flew over, trailing them was this world war two dive bomber that he had been shoot down in as [inaudible 02:06:15] to him. So everybody choked up then including him but he is quite a guy.

