

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

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## Summary Information

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

### Preferred Citation

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

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## Biographical Note for Marie McMillan

Pilot and educator Marie McMillan was born Marie Stever in 1926 and was raised in Northern California. She earned her Associate's degree at the University of California, Berkeley before marrying Elisha "Duke" Daly. Daly served as a radio operator on several naval ships during World War II. After World War II, the couple worked at Ernest O. Lawrence's radiation laboratory in Berkeley, California. In 1957, they moved to Nevada to work at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), with Marie becoming one of the first women to work

there. In the 1960s, Marie McMillan and "Duke" Daly's marriage ended. In 1964, Marie married dentist and Nevada civil rights leader Dr. James B. McMillan.

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

Source:

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

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## Biographical Note for James B. McMillan

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

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

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

McMillan was a prominent civil rights leader and an integral part of desegregation efforts in Nevada. He served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Las Vegas branch, chairman of the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, and president of the Black Chamber of Commerce (now known as the Urban Chamber of Commerce). In addition, he founded the Las Vegas Human Rights Commission, served on the Clark County School Board, was elected president of the West Las Vegas Democratic Club, and became the first African-American to served on the State Democratic Central Committee. He was also the first African-American from Nevada to run for the United

States Senate and campaign for Las Vegas City Council. In 1960, as local NAACP president, McMillan threatened to march on the Las Vegas Strip to demand desegregation of public accommodations. Later, McMillan threatened another march to force casinos to hire blacks in positions other than porters and maids. In both cases, the casino owners capitulated. McMillan also orchestrated large voter registration drives to encourage minorities to vote.

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

Source:

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

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## Scope and Contents Note

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

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## Arrangement

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The materials are arranged into two series:

Series I. Marie McMillan papers, 1928-2010;

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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

### Acquisition Note

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

### Processing Note

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

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

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

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

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

James McMillan oral history interview, 1999 January 23. OH-01272. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada

## Separated Materials

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

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## Names and Subjects

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- Aviation -- Nevada
- Nevada Test Site (Nev.)
- African Americans -- Civil rights -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Segregation -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- Air pilots
- African Americans -- Political activity -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Photographs

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## Collection Inventory

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

Physical Description: 4.57 Cubic Feet (11 boxes)

Physical Description: 4.90 Linear Feet

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

Arrangement: Materials remain in the order they were received.

| Title/Description                                  | Containers |                 |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| Biographical information, 1983-2006                | box 01     | folder 01       |
| Certificates and awards, 1939-1985                 | box 01     | folder 02       |
| Correspondence, 1964-2010                          | box 01     | folder<br>03-04 |
| Distinguished Nevadan Award, 2006                  | box 01     | folder 05       |
| Fashion photographs, 1954                          | box 01     | folder 06       |
| Genealogical list of Stever family relatives, 1940 | box 01     | folder 07       |
| High school graduation and reunion, 1944-2002      | box 01     | folder 08       |

|   |        |                 |
|---|--------|-----------------|
| Joseph M. Neal Elementary School, 2002                                    | box 01 | folder 09       |
| License, school audiometrist, 1955  | box 01 | folder 10       |
| License, real estate, 1985  | box 01 | folder 11       |
| Report cards, 1943  | box 01 | folder 12       |
| Senior Adult Theater Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2002 | box 01 | folder 13       |
| Photographs, 1928   | box 01 | folder 14       |
| Skit about racism, 1994   | box 01 | folder 15       |
| Stafford, Robert, 1952-1993   | box 01 | folder<br>16-17 |
| Photographs, undated  | box 01 | folder 18       |
| Yearbooks, 1942-1949  | box 02 |                 |
| Anthropology papers, 1976-2000  | box 03 | folder<br>01-05 |
| Old Spanish Trail, 1965-1990  | box 04 | folder 01       |
| University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduation, 1994                          | box 04 | folder 02       |
| Birth announcements and children's drawings, 1954                         | box 05 | folder 01       |
| Elementary school assignments, undated                                    | box 05 | folder<br>02-03 |
| Private school information, 1957  | box 05 | folder 04       |
| Le Chatelainie yearbook, 1961   | box 05 | folder 05       |
| Correspondence, 1957  | box 05 | folder 06       |
| Postcards, 1962   | box 05 | folder 07       |
| Postcards and photographs, 1960   | box 05 | folder 08       |
| Vacation in Germany, 1962   | box 05 | folder 09       |
| Wedding announcement, 1968  | box 05 | folder 10       |
| Western High School Honor Society, 1963                                   | box 05 | folder 11       |
| Swimming Club, 1960-1962  | box 06 | folder<br>01-06 |
| Daly, Jack, college graduation, 1961                                      | box 07 | folder 01       |
| Daly, Jack, schoolwork, 1953  | box 07 | folder<br>02-03 |
| Photographs of Jack Daly, undated   | box 07 | folder 04       |
| Photographs of James McMillan, Jr., undated                               | box 07 | folder 05       |
| Photographs of Jaramilla McMillan, 1964-1981                              | box 07 | folder 06       |



|   |        |                 |
|---|--------|-----------------|
| Photographs of Jeffrey McMillan, 1968-2009  | box 07 | folder 07       |
| Awards, 1984  | box 08 | folder 01       |
| Correspondence, 1983-1991   | box 08 | folder<br>02-03 |
| Federation Aeronautique Internationale Conference, 1989                             | box 08 | folder 04       |
| Meadows School at McCarran Airport, photographs, 1989                               | box 08 | folder 05       |
| "My Greatest Adventure", 1995   | box 08 | folder 06       |
| Newsletter, The Vegas Valley Breeze, 1998   | box 08 | folder 07       |
| Newspaper articles, 1984-1990   | box 08 | folder 08       |
| News releases: National Aeronautic Association, 1985                                | box 08 | folder 09       |
| News releases: Flying Grandma, 1985   | box 08 | folder 10       |
| Ninety Nines: Powder Puff Derby, 1975   | box 08 | folder 11       |
| Oklahoma City Conference, 1999  | box 08 | folder 12       |
| Pamphlets, 1985-2008  | box 08 | folder 13       |
| Photographs, 1986   | box 08 | folder 14       |
| Programs, 1999-2008   | box 08 | folder 15       |
| Public relations by Paul, Stuart and Richard, Inc., 1985                            | box 08 | folder 16       |
| Receipts, 1981  | box 08 | folder 17       |
| Statistics and Guinness records, Flying Grandma, 1981-1985                          | box 08 | folder 18       |
| "The Ninety Nines: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow", 1996                                | box 08 | folder 19       |
| Memorial service, Eva Marie Stever, 1989  | box 09 | folder 01       |
| Obituary, Michelle Daly, 1971   | box 09 | folder 02       |
| Memorial service, Michelle Marie Daly, 1971   | box 09 | folder 03       |
| Memorial service, Rosalie Benning, 1974   | box 09 | folder 04       |
| Obituaries and memorials, 1948-2010   | box 09 | folder 05       |
| Newspaper clippings, photocopies of awards and certificates, and assorted mementos. |        |                 |
| Marie McMillan, 1969  | box 10 | folder 01       |
| James McMillan, 1997-1999   | box 10 | folder 02       |
| Joe Neal, 2000  | box 10 | folder<br>03-05 |
| Wendell Williams, 2001-2002   | box 10 | folder 06       |
| Assorted plaques, 2004-2006   | box 23 |                 |

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Elisha "Duke" Daly, 1943-1990                               |        |           |
| American Rocket Society, 1945-1960                          | box 11 | folder 01 |
| Award certificates, Operation Hardtack, 1958                | box 11 | folder 02 |
| Legal and Navy documents, 1944-1962                         | box 11 | folder 03 |
| Livermore Laboratory and "The Magnet" newsletter, 1956-1959 | box 11 | folder 04 |
| Nevada Test Site, 1957-1961                                 | box 11 | folder 05 |
| Photographs, 1962-1963                                      | box 11 | folder 06 |
| Photographs, Navy, 1943-1945                                | box 11 | folder 07 |
| Scrapbook, 1950-1990  | box 11 | folder 08 |

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## James B. McMillan papers, 1935-2006

Physical Description: 6.23 Cubic Feet (14 boxes)

Physical Description: 9.00 Linear Feet

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

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

| Title/Description  | Containers |                 |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| Biographical information, 1999                                       | box 12     | folder 01       |
| Black Pioneers of Nevada, 1998                                       | box 12     | folder 02       |
| Certificates and awards, 1955-2004                                   | box 12     | folder 03       |
| Certificates: dentistry, 1955-1991                                   | box 12     | folder 04       |
| City Council of Las Vegas: campaign materials, 1972                  | box 12     | folder 05       |
| Correspondence, 1964-1992  | box 12     | folder<br>06-07 |
| "Fighting Back" biography from University of Nevada, Reno, 1997-1998 | box 12     | folder 08       |
| Hamtramck High School, sports programs, 1935-1991                    | box 12     | folder 09       |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. speech and photograph, 1963, 1991            | box 12     | folder 10       |
| Meharry Dental Class reunions and photographs, 1969-1994             | box 12     | folder 11       |
| Newspaper articles, 1960-1997  | box 13     | folder 01       |
| Portraits, 1983-1990   | box 13     | folder 02       |
| Profile in Courage Award, 1990                                       | box 13     | folder 03       |
| United States Senate campaign, 1964                                  |            |                 |

|  |                     |           |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
|  | box 13              | folder 04 |
| Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church, 2001  | box 13              | folder 05 |
| "This Is Your Life" Honors Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, 1990  | box 13              | folder 06 |
| Wedding information sent from the Bahamas, 1964  | box 13              | folder 07 |
| Wedding photographs with Marie McMillan, 1964  | box 13              | folder 08 |
| West Las Vegas Democratic Club bylaws, 1964  | box 13              | folder 09 |
| Plaques, 1960-1999   | oversized<br>box 14 |           |
| Invitations to events, 1989-2006   | box 15              | folder 01 |
| "Order of the Amaranth" ritual book, 1946  | box 15              | folder 02 |
| Black Pioneers of Nevada, programs, 1987-1991  | box 15              | folder 03 |
| "This Is Your Life" programs, 1985-1992  | box 15              | folder 04 |
| National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) programs, 1987-1997                     | box 15              | folder 05 |
| Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce programs, 1985-2000   | box 15              | folder 06 |
| Event Programs, 1984-1992  | box 15              | folder 07 |
| Valley View Golf Club awards and photographs, 1971   | box 15              | folder 08 |
| Martin Luther King Banquets, 2001-2002   | box 16              | folder 01 |
| Freedom Fund Banquet, 1974-2000  | box 16              | folder 02 |
| Historic Moulin Rouge Perservation Association, 1995-2003  | box 16              | folder 03 |
| City Council Agenda, 1984  | box 17              | folder 01 |
| Citizens Priority Advisory Committee, 1985   | box 17              | folder 02 |
| Compensation Board appointment, 1989   | box 17              | folder 03 |
| Curtiss Atomic Marines Reunion, 2006   | box 17              | folder 04 |
| Pursuing Equal Justice in the West: conference packet, 2004  | box 17              | folder 05 |
| Urban Chamber of Commerce Conference: conference packet, 2000-2001   | box 17              | folder 06 |
| First Interstate Bank of Nevada v James B. McMillan, 1983  | box 18              | folder 01 |
| First Nevada Management Company: articles of incorporation, 1964   | box 18              | folder 02 |
| Kahua Shores Limited, 1990   | box 18              | folder 03 |
| McMillan Ranches, 1978   | box 18              | folder 04 |
| Property maps, 1980  | box 18              | folder 05 |
| Las Vegas Valley Broadcasting Company, application for a new commercial television broadcast station, 1971 | box 18              | folder 06 |
| Valley Broadcasting Company: sale, 1982  |                     |           |

|  |                            |                 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
|  | box 18                     | folder 07       |
| Valley Broadcasting Company: Federal Communications Commission hearing, 1986   | box 18                     | folder 08       |
| Escrow papers, 1964  | box 19                     | folder 01       |
| Financial Corporation of Nevada, appraisal report, 1964  | box 19                     | folder 02       |
| Legal case: Joseph O'Rayel, 1989   | box 19                     | folder 03       |
| Legal case: Walton Noble, 1982-1990  | box 19                     | folder 04       |
| Legal papers: Citizens State Bank, 1964  | box 19                     | folder 05       |
| Legal papers: Nevada Savings and Loan, 1964  | box 19                     | folder 06       |
| Legal papers: Port Harcourt, Nigeria casino, 1981-1990   | box 19                     | folder 07       |
| Property purchase and management, Kasper Park, 1964  | box 19                     | folder 08       |
| Department of Labor employment documents, 1967   | box 19                     | folder 09       |
| Veterans home loan eligibility, 1965   | box 19                     | folder 10       |
| James B. McMillan Elementary School  |                            |                 |
| Dedication, 1990   | box 20                     | folder 01       |
| Honor Choir, 2000  | box 20                     | folder 02       |
| Letters from students, 1990  | box 20                     | folder<br>03-04 |
| Newspaper clippings, 1989  | box 20                     | folder 05       |
| Rededication, 2004   | box 20                     | folder 06       |
| School information, 2000   | box 20                     | folder 07       |
| Trophies, plaques, audio cassette tapes, and honors, 2000  | box 21                     |                 |
| Photographs, 1940-2006   | box 22                     |                 |
| Assorted plaques, 1944-1998  | box 23<br>box 24<br>box 25 |                 |
| Display (disassembled) for Fighting Back: A life in the Struggle for Civil Rights book signing and reception event, 1997 December 02 | box 25                     |                 |

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