

Collection #
M 0869
DVD 0106

VIRGINIA BLANKENBAKER PAPERS, 1957–1998

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April 2006

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 33 boxes Visual Materials: 1 DVD, 2 photograph folders Printed Materials: 3 printed items Artifacts: 7 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1957–1998
PROVENANCE:	Virginia Blankenbaker, Wilmette, IL, 7 July 2000; 20 April 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0888; 2001.0567

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Virginia Blankenbaker was born Virginia Murphy in Indianapolis on 29 March 1933. She was raised in the Indianapolis area and went to Decatur Central High School in Marion County. She attended Purdue University, in Lafayette, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics and Science Education in 1955, and her Masters in Education from Butler University, in Indianapolis, in 1979. She married Richard I. Blankenbaker and they have five children.

She worked as a Home Economics and Math teacher at Brentwood Junior High School in Pensacola, Florida, for the 1955–56 school years, and then became a home economist for Colonial Food Stores until 1959. Blankenbaker returned to teaching when she took a job as a Home Economics teacher at IPS Day High School at Wood High School from 1976 to 1984; and then moved to A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. where she worked as an Investment Broker. She was also very active in volunteer work, especially in educational and health areas.

Blankenbaker's political career began in 1980 when she was elected to her first term in the Indiana State Senate. She was re-elected for the 1984 term and served through 1996. While she was in the Senate she served on many committees, and chaired the Health and Human Services Committee and the Child Support Advisory Committee. Blankenbaker also ran for Mayor of Indianapolis in 1991, and the U.S. House of Representatives, District 10, in 1996 but was defeated in both races.

Blankenbaker lives in Wilmette, Illinois, and was recently appointed to the Washington, DC-based Rural School Community Trust Board.

Sources:

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of papers from Virginia Blankenbaker's time in public office. The records have been separated into six subject series: Working Papers, Senate and House Bills, Issues, Education, Health Care, and Elections.

Series 1: Working Papers includes personal papers, correspondence, clippings, and speeches. There are also papers from meetings she attended and committees she was on. This series is organized by subject and then chronologically.

Series 2: Senate and House Bills consists of House and Senate Bills from 1984 to 1997. The bills are organized by number for each year, with House Bills first. Along with some of the bills are other papers including correspondence or newspaper clippings about the bills.

Series 3: Issues consists of the topics that were of concern to constituents during the time Blankenbaker was in office. Examples of some of these issues are: handguns, abortion, child support, family law, and public safety. This series is organized alphabetically by subject, and chronologically within the subject. The folder titles in this series, along with most of the folders throughout the collection, have been taken directly from the folders used by Blankenbaker and her staff.

Series 4: Education is an issue that had many different topics within it, so was given its own series. Among the topics are: kindergarten, school busing, Indianapolis Public Schools, and Indiana High School Athletic Association. It is organized alphabetically by topic and chronologically within each topic.

Series 5: Health Care is also an issue that had many different topics within it and was larger, so it became a series. Included are topics covering: minority health, the Commission on State Health meetings, healthcare, and healthy mothers and babies. It is organized alphabetically by topic and chronologically within each topic.

Series 6: Elections includes Blankenbaker's running for Mayor in 1991, and her Congressional re-election in 1996. There are also TV spots for each campaign, clippings about the campaigns, call lists, and campaign papers. This series is organized chronologically by the election, then alphabetically.

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