

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Zerlean Silas James**
Viola Gibson Randle

Zerlean James and Viola Randle are long time friends, both born in Fulshear, Texas. They discuss growing up in sharecropper families. They discuss ways of life, friends, play times, chores, schooling, church, shopping, mail delivery, quilting, cooking and their careers. Ms. Randle became Mayor of Fulshear in 1977; the only black Mayor of Fulshear to date. Both have been very involved in renovating the Fulshear Black Cemetery

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Interview Summary – Zerlean Silas James

People (in order mentioned in interview)

William Silas - father

Eliza Rogers Silas - mother

Josephine Clark Rogers – maternal grandmother's

Frank Rogers – maternal grandfather

Fannie Spears Silas – paternal grandmother

William Silas – paternal grandfather

Willie James, Jr – ex husband

Maggie James - daughter

Willean James- daughter

JoAnn James - daughter

Eliza Beatrice James - daughter

Willie James - Son

Michael Ray James - Son

Carter Family of Katy

Places / Businesses

Dad's club

Sanctified – black church

Mount Calvary – black church

Zachary – black church

Pleasant Hill – black church

Virgie Lee's Café

Ruffin Dixon

Robinowitz Store

Jessie Allen Café

Walkers Meyer's Grocery Store

Events

Born on Mr. Huggins' place in August 1937

Interview Summary – Viola Gilmore Randle

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Jim Gibson - father

Mary Warren - mother

Amanda – paternal grandmother

Edward Batts – brother

Maurice Gilmore – brother

Willie Jean Randle Sterling – daughter

Dave - uncle

Mr. Russell

Briscoe Family

Michael Wells

Willie Pierce

Places / Businesses

Hines Nursery

Bois D'Arc Lane

Harris Farm

Weston lakes

Crutchers Ranch

Myers Grocery

The Dinky (train)

Flewellen, TX.

Fulshear Community Center

Events

Born on W.J. Walker's farm in July 1924

Mayor of Fulshear, Texas

Historical Marker Dedication at Fulshear Black Cemetery