



THE ALEXANDRIA ORAL HISTORY CENTER  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



# Oral History Interview

with

## Beatrice Taylor

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**Interviewer:** *Francesco De Salvatore*

**Narrator:** *Beatrice Taylor*

**Location of Interview:**  
520 S. Payne St, Alexandria, VA, 22314

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**Transcriber:** *Kerry J Reed*

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### **Summary:**

*Beatrice Taylor reflects on her life in Alexandria, Virginia. Including her experiences with segregation, growing up in Colored Rosemont, and time spent working with community organizations in Alexandria.*

### **Notes:**

*This recording is part of the Colored Rosemont Community History Initiative, seeks to preserve and showcase the importance of a historic, African American neighborhood, where African Americans owned homes during a period of racist housing policies and restrictive covenants.*

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<b>General</b>	Childhood; Colored Rosemont; Family; Occupation; Segregation; Community Involvement
<b>People</b>	Beatrice Taylor; John Taylor
<b>Places</b>	S. Payne St.; Wythe St.; Colored Rosemont; Alexandria; Parker-Gray High School

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:00:04] My name is Beatrice C Taylor. My age is 87 years old. I was born in Alexandria, Virginia. 1935. To Haywood and Lucy Carte Cross. My parents stayed together for four years, and then I moved to my grandmother's and grandfather's house in Colored Rosemont. And that's where I was raised. [00:00:40][35.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:00:41] That's great. My name is Francesco. And today is the 24th, and we're at Miss Taylor's home here in Alexandria at 520 South Payne Street. So. Okay, so you're talking about how you moved to Colored Rosemont. Can you explain where is Colored Rosemont? [00:01:01][20.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:01:03] It's on Wythe Street. That's where I was raised. And it's not a large area. Maybe about six blocks. And it was just a community, a small community where everybody looked out for everybody. We all played together. When we left our neighborhood, the Rosemont. When we left out of there, the girls, we always left together and it was time to come back, we had to come back home together. Basically, most of us attended Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, and that was out on South Washington Street, 606 S. Washington Street. We all attended Parker Gray High School. And I tell you this, I started Miss Martha Miller's kindergarten, and I think that was probably the only kindergarten in the city for blacks in Alexandria. From there I went to Parker Gray from grade 1 to 5 and for grades 6 and 7. We attended, I take it back, from grade 5 and 6, we went to Lyles-Crouch, we came back to Parker Gray for grade 7 until we finished in the 12th grade. We had a lot of nice teachers. John and I were in the 3rd grade together, Miss Laura Darcy [presumably the 3rd grade teacher]. And when we went to Lyles-Crouch, we were separated. He went to Miss Finney's class, and I went to Miss Pauline Lilly's class. [00:03:15][132.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:03:16] Really quick, who's John? [00:03:17][1.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:03:18] John is the guy I married.[Laughing] [00:03:18][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:03:23] I just want to make sure everyone knows who that is. [00:03:25][1.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:03:30] He's the guy I married. And then when we came back to Parker-Gray, I went to Miss Helen Day's class and John went to Miss Pritchetts class. And that was for the 7th grade. Like I said, from then on we were in school, and then we went up to another class. We went to the eighth grade. I went to Mrs. Brown's class. And I'm trying to remember the teacher's name that John went to. But other than that, we came back together. When they put us in the class together, Miss Flora Chase. Miss Flora Chase was actually a business teacher, but we had a homeroom class there and she was really a nice teacher. We got along with her fine and she was crazy about John. We had most of our class periods were with him. Most of our classes were with him. [00:04:40][69.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:04:41] Do you want some water? [00:04:41][0.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:04:42] No sometimes it [unintelligible]. We even had physical ed. But of course, the boys were on one side and the girls were on another side. John played football. He was

very good in football. I was homecoming queen in the 8th grade and also in my senior year. [00:05:08][25.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:05:23] Why did your family moved to color Rosemont? [00:05:25][2.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:05:26] Well, when my grandfather came to Alexandria from North Carolina, he got off from, what I understand, to rest when the train stopped and he rested and he walked around and he liked the area, so he sent back for his family. I understand that when they moved here, my Aunt Lois was the baby. Now, there were eleven of them, I think, or ten. And they moved to Princess Street. But my Aunt Lois doesn't remember that. She remembers moving to this brand new house on Wythe Street, 1321 Wythe W-y-t-h-e Street. And that's where they stayed. And they just tore those houses down. And this is 2023. In fact, I don't know if they've torn them down yet. They've got them all... [00:06:24][57.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:06:24] They're starting to. [00:06:24][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:06:25] They started to tear them down. That was a nice house, very nice house. My grandmother, I believe, after all of her children had left home. I was there. And she started taking in welfare kids. And she may have been the only licensed one, I don't know that either, the only licensed person in the city. But she took in welfare kids and she also had daycare, too. She was charging something like 10 or 15 dollars, maybe 25 dollars, maybe not that much, a week. She fed them. She washed their clothes. She did everything. And some of those women didn't pay her and didn't want to pick those children up on Fridays because they wanted to go out. They were leaving, "Miss Cross gon have 'em, Miss cross don't go nowhere." So they could leave them there. [00:07:26][61.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:07:31] So, you said that your grandfather moved here, right? When was that? Do you remember the year? [00:07:44][13.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:07:46] Well, I tell you what, if you look at Lois' birthday. [00:07:48][2.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:07:58] So she was a year old, so it could have been around 1924. [00:08:02][3.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:08:03] So you family moved here and... [00:08:04][0.9]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:08:04] Moved here about that time... [00:08:04][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:08:05] In the twenties, great. [00:08:06][0.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:08:07] Yeah. And... [00:08:07][0.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:08:09] So, what are some of your earliest memories of growing up in Colored Rosemont? [00:08:15][5.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:08:15] Okay. We had a dirt street. No sidewalks. When it rained a lot, it would flood all down there. And they had a corner store. It was Mr. Roy. And he also had a beer garden and a corner store. They were attached, and that beer garden was for white people. Everything was segregated. There was a stoop that was still sitting out front of the house on Wythe Street, I'll say, until sometimes last year, I saw it. It wasn't as high as it used to be, but it was sitting up. And I understand it's been moved. My grandmother had three trees out front. And when winter came and those leaves fell, I would hate that because we had to sweep before we went to school. And you come back home and it's still covered. The front is still covered with those leaves. She had a beautiful garden and she read all the time. Granny read all the time. She had my father fix a pond for fish in the back yard, which was really pretty. In the summer, it was simply beautiful. And then when winter came in and then you had to clean it back out again for the summer. She read so much. On every first of the month when the House and Garden, the Journal, Better Home and Gardens, Good Housekeeping magazines came out and a whole lot more. And she would always have us to get those papers. We'd bring them home on our way home from church and she also every Sunday and we would come back on our way home from church, we stop at a little newsstand on King Street and we would get the Washington Star, The Washington Post and the New York Times newspapers. She would just read those things. She never went out. But she knew things that she wanted and anything she wanted, she would just order. And it used to be a man that come around. And his name was Cameo. And that's who she used to order stuff from. And then you had the Watkins man that come around and they would sell Watkins products. Oh, nutmeg or vanilla, cinnamon, all kinds of spices and different types of linaments and salves, she would buy that. About once a month, the minister from Roberts would come out, and especially in the summer, they would sit out on the front porch. And other than that, she didn't go to church, but she was a member. And if they knew what they wanted anything, they knew how to ask Miss Cross for. That's the same thing within the neighborhood. If the neighborhood needed anything, they knew how to come to Miss Cross. or Mr. Cross. [00:11:49][214.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:11:55] That's great. Thank you for sharing all that. I'm curious, who are some of your friends that you grew up with? What would you guys do? [00:12:04][9.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:12:05] Okay. I grew up with my cousins. That was Jeanette, and that was Teesa, and that was Shirley. And then there was, we her call Peggy but her name was Catherine Ward, and there was Eunice. Eunice Majors. Around the corner was Phyllis Diggs and Lucille Diggs. All of us played basketball and baseball, and all of us during the summer would go to Bible schools. Different churches had Bible schools. So that was some summer activities. We would go from one church to the other church. And then we all joined Girl Scouts and the Brownies, and we would go up there for meetings and then we would go to camp Tapawingo, and we spent about a week there. We sold, of course, the cookies every year. And they weren't no \$5 either. Something like \$0.75, or something like that, a box. Very good. And it didn't have a whole lot of different varieties of cookies. Our instructors at the Hopkins house was Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Edith Allen and Miss Helen Day. And on Tuesdays we would go to church for choir rehearsal and religious instruction meetings with Reverend Lovell. When we played baseball, we would play it in the streets in front of the houses, and we didn't have any problem because most of the houses are owned by men and they didn't have cars. But we were not allowed to wear jeans on Sundays. And if we did not go to church, we could not leave the bottom, as

they call it. We paid our rent to Mrs. White Thomas up on Princess Street. And I believe that area was the only area that black people that owned their own homes. [00:14:38][152.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:14:41] Do you have any other memories about your neighbors? Who were your neighbors in Colored Rosemont? [00:14:44][3.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:14:45] Miss Lilly. They didn't have any children, I don't think. But on Easters, she always had a Easter egg hunt in her yard, and she would hide money, and then she would always have cake. She could always cook. She'd made some good cakes and cupcakes and stuff. And she always gave us cakes and punch and stuff. The neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Berry. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison. They lived on the corner and Mr. and Mrs. Berry lived next to them. And then my grandmother was next to them. And then it was a vacant lot at that time. My grandfather owned it, it was part of his yard because they had large yards. Then you had Mr. and Mrs. Waterson, Parker Waterson, and Mr. and Mrs. Lilly and then Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and then the house on the corner of Payne and Wythe Street was Mr. and Mrs. Outten. I can't think of his name. Well, they lived on the corner. Then you go around the corner on West Street, and I gave you that list of names. It was Mr. and Mrs. Watson. And then you had Mr. and Mrs. Burke. Mr. and Mrs. Dundas. I'm missing one name, oh, I can't remember what it was. But they were right by that alley. And then you come around on Madison Street. That was Mr. and Mrs. Mills. Oh, God. [00:16:46][121.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:16:55] It's okay. [00:16:55][0.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:16:56] Mrs. Spotswood. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Greene. I can't think of them. Across the street from those houses on Madison Street was Mrs. Lucille Diggs and Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd. [00:17:13][17.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:17:16] That's great. [00:17:17][1.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:17:20] One more thing. We did have a corner store, and that was Mr. Watson's store. They had a corner store, and later on, they built a restaurant next to it. [Coughs] Excuse me. And then they had a large house, it reminded you of a plantation. That was on Payne Street. It was big. I always wanted to go in that house. [00:17:52][31.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:17:52] Payne and what? [00:17:53][0.5]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:17:54] It was between Payne, Madison and Wythe. But it was on Payne Street. [00:18:00][5.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:18:07] That's great. What were the boundaries of Colored Rosemont? [00:18:25][17.9]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:18:25] Okay. I believe the boundaries would be... [00:18:27][1.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:18:27] In your opinion. [00:18:27][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:18:29] Pendelton Street, Fayette Street. I'm not sure if Henry Street was part of it. Because we didn't have that many from what I remember, it used to be a store called Bacon Jackson? No, no, that wasn't it. I'm sure now it wasn't that, it was another store. But it was more like Pendelton Street, Fayette Street, Madison Street, West Street. That was more like the area of the circle, I guess. [00:19:09][39.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:19:10] That's great. Is there anything else about the area that you remember that you want to share? [00:19:14][4.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:19:18] Let's see. [Pause] Oh, I can tell you that Mr. May just had a car. And we were the children who all went to Methodist Church, Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church. At that time, it wasn't United, it was Methodist Church. Crowd into his car and he would take us to church. His son Eugene used to walk, and a lot of times he would beat us out there by just walking. Later on, my father had a two seater Ford and he would let me drive. But I couldn't shift the gears to go back and forth like that. I just kept it in one standard gear thing. I didn't leave when everybody left. The girls that I went around with, when they left the area I was by myself. But I didn't go nowhere by myself. So when I wanted to, I would go to my girlfriend's house on Columbus Street. Now, how I got with John is something else. We were in the library at Parker Gray, study hall, and George Payne came over and said, "Bea, John say if you want to go to a dance Friday, he would bring you home." So I said, "Yeah, I want to go," because I hadn't been going anywhere. So I went up to my girlfriend's house that day and we walked on down to Pendleton Street. Because Pendleton Street down to Byrd Street, they had a rec where you went. People used to go and pay their rent and they would let you come and they would let you have dances there. And sure enough, he brought me home and that was it. So, that was like for three years... [00:21:38][139.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:21:39] Wait, so how old were you when you met John? [00:21:41][1.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:21:42] Well, I think I started going with him when I was about 16. [00:21:44][2.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:21:46] Wow. Okay. [00:21:47][0.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:21:47] So that was three years with him, going with him. We got married in '55 after we came out of school and we were together for 64 years. It was close to 65 when he died, but we were together, was 64, married and then 67 total. I count those. [00:22:04][17.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:22:06] Right. How would you describe John? [00:22:07][0.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:22:09] He was a fun guy. Very nice, very concerning. We had a lot of personalities. We did have somethings alike, we liked doing things for other people and helping people. And I think that was our nature on both families. We did things like that. He was a lot of fun. And he did a lot for me. And he really did care for me. I couldn't have asked for a better partner. [00:22:42][33.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:22:44] What are some of your fondest memories with John? [00:22:47][2.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:22:49] Always taking me places, introducing me to things. Having a vision of what he wanted and it was just about the same as my vision of what we wanted to do with our family and our lives together. If we wanted something, if we wanted a car or whatever, we discussed that. We didn't go out and just splurge and just spend. We really knew that we could not do things like that. Some people did, but we didn't. If we want to go on a trip, I would try and double some bills so I would have money enough for August to go on a trip and that's with the family or whatever. Every summer when the kids were young, it would be like about five cars. And we would take children and we would all go maybe to Hershey Park or someplace. [00:23:57][68.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:23:57] Five cars? [00:23:58][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:23:58] Different families. And we would go to maybe Hershey park. We would go to the beach. And, you know, those are things we did together. All of us knew we didn't have much, but we knew how to have our families together. That's a lot. Considering how things are today. You do the best you can with whatever you have, and you just learn to enjoy each other and everything. John was a wonderful person. [00:24:39][41.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:24:42] Is there a specific memory or two? Is there a memory you have with John that you would like to hold on to for the rest of your life? [00:24:46][4.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:24:57] I have several. I'll tell you this, we went to the prom. His brother drove us to the prom. Kids wouldn't think of something like that now, would they? I never stayed out all night. That's something different too. John had a certain time to be in too. Although he didn't let a lot of those guys know that. But he knew that, and he also knew that when it was time for dinner at his house, he had to be home at that dinner table. Even the coach knew that. Plus, let me tell you something else about John. John was in high school. I told you it was simple. Doing crazy things. And the teachers were sent home and let them know. Tell his mother and father, John did such a think. His father would come up to the school every day. His mother ended up taking him off the football team. And you know what he did? He laughed about it. And he said, a long time ago, I used to tell Damian, my our grandson. He said, "You don't let them know that you upset about something because they'll continue to kid you." So he would laugh about things. But his mother took him off the football team. We had a 25th anniversary. We had it at the Elks and that was big. When we got married, we had no money, so we got married in my aunt and uncle's yard. But it was pretty. It was really pretty. They took bows from the gifts and put them on the bushes. And my uncle Leon, Leon baltimore, he piped in the music. Mother got the cake from Federal Bakery. My gown came from L. Franks. And my girlfriend was my maid of honor, and it was strictly for family. But it was really, really nice. So when I had my 25th wedding anniversary, we splurged on it. But then for our 50 anniversary, we really did splurge on it because we had it at the, I think it was at the Hyatt or the Marriott up in Crystal City, and we had 250 people. 250. I think it was 250 or 300 people. And that was really, really nice. I've gone on cruises, the two of us, and we have enjoyed those. We've gone on trips with the Elks to



different places I didn't think I would be going to. New Orleans, Chicago and of course the Virginia Tidewater and areas like that. [00:27:55][178.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:28:10] You've talked a little bit about John, but can you talk about the family that that both of you built? [00:28:15][5.5]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:28:17] We had two girls, Karen and Rhonda. Karen, she and Rhonda both attended T.C. Williams and they both graduated from T.C. Williams. Kieran attended, after T.C. Williams, she attended VCU in Richmond, and she graduated from there. And she married Greyling Chandler from Danville, Virginia. And they had two children. Rhonda attended George Mason after high school, and she did not stay. She had one child, one son, and that was Damein. Damein married and he has five children. A set of triplets, and they live in Upper Marlboro. Kieran's daughter, Lyndsy married Troy Smith and they have four children. Ashley has six children and he lives in Fort Washington, I think. I think it is Fort Washington, I am not sure. They all live in Maryland because houses in Virginia are too expensive for most blacks. So everybody seems to go to Maryland to live. It's a shame. It is a shame. I'll get back to something else. When I was involved in a whole lot of different activities, the PTAs. I was president of the PTA for Robert E Lee. And I worked at the polls. I worked in my church and I still do. I was in charge of the church decorating committee for, I think, about from 1982 to about 2000 something. Karen is now chairman of it. I was involved in the Elks. [00:31:21][184.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:31:25] You've mentioned the Elks a little bit. Can you maybe describe who the Elks are? [00:31:29][4.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:31:31] It's an organization just like the Masons and the Sonics and all. You do different things for the community, and all. At Alexandra Elks Lodge, we did a baby shower for the city and we had teenage pregnancies. The kids, the young girls would come there and we had all kinds of baby items and things for them. We also gave away coats for school and backpacks to the schools. For a number of years until this virus came up, we had a pre-Thanksgiving for seniors. We started out at the Elks. It got so large that we had to take it to Robert E. Lee Center. And we had over 300 people. And that was every year. When we started out, we asked the community to help us with food and stuff. And you'd be surprised at the different people that volunteered to help. We had Elks oratorical contests. We had baby showers. [Pause] Those things we enjoy doing. I work with the alumni of Parker Gray. And I was associated with the Southwest quadrant Civic Association. [00:33:39][128.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:33:44] What did the Civic Association do? [00:33:45][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:33:48] Well, I'll tell you one thing we did was in 1970 some, we tried we blocked the Eisenhower extension. [00:33:55][7.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:33:59] Can you talk more about that? Like what was the Eisenhower extension? [00:34:02][2.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:34:03] They wanted to bring the road through here. And we felt that we had enough traffic as it was. So, we sent letters to the mayor. And I think the mayor at that time was Beasley, [corrects herself] Beatley, Beatley. We sent letters, concerning that we felt we had enough traffic and disruption in this area then to keep having more traffic added. So that was blocked and I'm glad of that. That was one thing we did. Plus... [00:34:36][32.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:34:38] What did you do to help stop it? [00:34:41][3.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:34:43] We wrote letters. And also on the Elks, I was daughter rule. [00:35:00][17.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:35:05] What's the daughter rule? [00:35:05][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:35:05] Is just like a president, a chairman. I was chairman of the homecoming program and co-chairman of the Education Department. That's where we had the Elks Oratorical contests. We would go to the schools and get kids who were interested into speaking for the oratorical contests. [00:35:28][22.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:35:30] Oh, wow. When were you doing this? [00:35:32][1.9]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:35:34] This was back in the eighties. We had Halloween parties and Christmas parties. We did a whole lot. And I always did like decorating. And I also used to like to do weddings for people. When I was in the government, I did several weddings for people. I started working in the government in '69, I believe, and I got in the first year I was there. Second year, I helped with the Declaration of the Doors for Christmas and two other ladies and I won first prize for that door decoration. [00:36:41][67.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:36:44] So, you've mentioned that you worked for the government. So how old were you when this happened? [00:36:52][7.7]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:36:52] Oh, goodness. I was probably in my, maybe my thirties. I don't know. I hadn't thought about that. [laughing] No indeed. [00:37:01][8.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:37:14] After high school in Alexandria, did you end up going to college or what did you end up doing? [00:37:18][4.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:37:19] No, I didn't go to college. I worked at Hayman's Department store. I used to do fancy wrapping. I did the windows and I used to do fashion shows. At that time, we went to the station and took the clothes for the station for the models to do it over there. And then I went to Lansburgh, I went over there. And then later on, I started working at Aetna Casualty Insurance Company. And from there, I went to work for Job Corps. And from Job Corps, I went into the government. That was back in the sixties because Shriver's was in charge of the Job Corps, I believe. [00:38:08][49.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:38:10] So you went to work for the federal government? [00:38:11][1.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:38:12] Federal government. [00:38:12][0.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:38:13] And what did you do for the federal government? [00:38:15][1.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:38:18] I was a secretary. And then I left. I went to, I can't remember the department I was in, but I left there and I went to the Navy, Department of Navy. And I worked in the rate section of the Navy. And that's where I've won a lot of awards because I saved the government a lot of money. It was like an audit part. And from there, I stayed there about ten years and then I went to Army. And then I was, what was my title? It was like a rate specialist there. And I saved them a lot of money, because we had to route kids for traveling. So we'd find cheaper routes for this deal, to get them there. So, I got a lot of awards there. In 1987, I was Federal Woman of the Year. [00:39:23][65.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:39:27] On wow. When was this again? [00:39:27][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:39:27] 1987. It's a program here. And when I was winning these awards, it was always for outstanding service, for being a dutiful worker, a hard worker, a person who got along with people, who contributed, and I didn't mind working with people. I like meeting people. Before I went to Army, when I was at Navy, I went to Dallas, Texas and had training at American Airline. Oh, that was nice. And then one time we went to Atlanta, Georgia for Eastern Airline, just for one day to see the equipment and everything. I went to Dallas twice because one year I went and John came, and we went to see Dallas Stadium. That was nice. Another time I went there and I went to visit my neighbor who had family and all in San Antonio. To see Ms. White there, in San Antonio, Texas. So, I went there and visited her because she used to go down all the time, and I stayed with her for a little while. [00:41:24][116.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:41:32] I'm just curious, like what was it like working in these places? I imagine they probably weren't alot of women or were there? [00:41:40][8.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:41:43] There was a lot of women. [00:41:43][0.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:41:44] Were there a lot? [00:41:44][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:41:44] A lot of women. [00:41:44][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:41:48] Were there any challenges that you faced? [00:41:48][0.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:41:52] I tried to do my work and mind my business. People came to me for advice and to talk to me about problems, but I didn't pass that information on. So I got along fine with people. The challenges were always to get along with people. I think that's important, especially when you can be there everyday with someone. I believe in manners. I believe in saying "good morning" and "thank you" and "please" and appreciation. I was brought up a lot different than a lot

of people. And I think that had a whole lot to do with my work habits. I knew when I was hired, I was hired to work. I wasn't hired to talk on the phone and I knew how to answer the phone. People now don't answer the phone when you call into a business. We would taught when you say "good morning," you say your name, "This is Mrs. Taylor. May I help you?" People don't do that now. You don't know who you're talking to. Enough of those scam artists. [00:43:09][76.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:43:10] That's great. Is there anything from your career that you want to mention that you haven't mentioned? [00:43:18][8.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:43:20] I worked for Seniors Services. I didn't tell you that. Senior Services. And I enjoyed that. After I retired from the government, I worked for Seniors Services for 11 years. [00:43:33][12.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:43:34] Here in Alexandria? [00:43:34][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:43:35] Here in Alexandria. And the only reason I stopped was because of my eyes. I enjoyed it because I met people, mainly talking to them on the phone. It was one lady, Mrs. Smith. She sent word to the director that her husband might call in on the days that Mrs. Taylor worked because she was so nice and kind and she didn't mind talking to him. Another time, it was a man who was a street person. And he would come in there. And he actually was frightening but I didn't let him know that. I would give him coffee and buns. And one time he came in and he had cut his hand, not a bad cut, just a little cut. And he held his finger out to me like that and I got up. I said, "Okay." I got the band aids, you know, and I put the band aids on his hand. I didn't let him know that I was kind of afraid of him. I wanted to be kind to him because most people probably, they weren't that kind to him, I guess. I mean, he was a pan handler, right? But I treated him nice. I did. And I just enjoy meeting people. And that's one thing I liked about that job. And I missed it. The taxicab. I was in charge of, not in charge of, but I worked with the taxicab orders. People calling for taxicabs. And I would take their information down, where they wanted to go and all. And I remember once I was in the store, grocery store, and this lady heard my voice. She said "Ms. Taylor." I said, "Yes," and "You don't know who I am?" And I said, "No." And she told me who she was. And she said, "I talk to you all the time and I enjoy talking to you." So I appreciate things like it. But that's nice, you know, for somebody to say something like that. [00:45:55][139.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:45:56] Yeah. You're saying, you know, that your upbringing taught you a lot of these... [00:46:00][3.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:46:00] Yes. My grandmother. [00:46:01][0.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:46:01] All these ways. And, you know, we've talked a little bit about your grandma and your parents. But can you tell us a little bit more? Let's start with your grandma. You've talk about your grandma, But can you maybe describe your grandfather a little bit? What was his name? Who was he? [00:46:17][15.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:46:17] His name was Robert Cross. He worked at Potomac Yards and I forgot what they did up there. I think it has something to do with bricks or something they did up there. He was a hard worker. He, from what I remember, they said he used to sell liquor. I think they used the right numbers, but he didn't do that, you know, not as a living, but he used to write to me every now and then. And then I guess he used to hit numbers, I guess. And in the summer, the men of the block, they would bring their trees, deck chairs and sit under that tree. And that's where they set in the evening when they got off work. [00:47:05][48.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:47:08] Where was this tree? [00:47:08][0.5]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:47:09] Right in front of the house. It was three trees there. [00:47:11][1.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:47:11] Right you mentioned that. [00:47:11][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:47:12] And they sit around the stoop that I was telling you about, this cinder block stoop. It was all cement. It was set up so high. And they would all sit around there and talk. He went to Ebenezer Church, Baptist Church, yeah. If people wanted anything, they knew how to come and borrow money for whatever they wanted from him. [00:47:41][29.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:47:45] What are... [00:47:45][0.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:47:45] My mother? [00:47:45][0.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:47:46] What are some of your fondest memories with your grandparents? [00:47:49][2.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:47:49] My grandparents. My grandmother. She taught me so much. I told you she didn't go any place. And she read a lot. But the finer things of life she would talk to you about. About cooking and about setting the table and washing dishes. It's a certain way you wash dishes. And she liked cleanliness. We had to scrub the kitchen floor and the back porch. It was wood. So, you scrubbed it and you had a rinse it in clear water. She liked nice things. She liked curtains and I like curtains, linens, finer things. And when she was in North Carolina and she met my grandfather, from what I understand, he worked at a store, or he owned the store. And her father used to send her down to the store. And that's how she met him. My grandmother, like I said, she didn't like to go out she said cause she had to dress up. And when she was in North Carolina, she said that's what they did. They dressed all the time and she didn't like it. And she never went back to North Carolina, as far as I can remember. She never went back to North Carolina. My first time going back, going to North Carolina, my father wanted to go and I was married and he asked John and John took us to North Carolina. I had never seen her cousin, Laura, and we were just walking down the street because my father hadn't been back since he left as a little boy. [00:49:42][112.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:49:42] Where in North Carolina? [00:49:43][1.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:49:44] Durham, North Carolina. And we were walking down the street and this lady was bending over in her yard. And I just said to daddy, "that lady look just like Granny." So we kept on walking and we got down and we just talked and started introducing ourselves and all. And she was my grandmother's cousin, Laura. [00:50:08][23.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:50:08] Really? [00:50:08][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:50:10] She had her hair fixed like granny and had those cotton dresses on because women then wore cotton dresses. And she told us where other members from the family lived. So we went to Hazel's house who was a beautiful lady. She did come to Alexandria to visit Granny, and her husband's name was Haywood. And we went into her house, and her furniture was a Duncan Fife, a sofa, just like we had it at the house. Her furniture and Granny's furniture was almost identical and everything, and we stayed there while. Then she told us where Grandpa's people lived, and that was comical because it was like it was tobacco road. It was totally different from where Granny's people were and his people. So we met her, met Daddy's cousin, and he hadn't seen her since he was a little boy and she hadn't seen him and we talked to them for a while. But he was happy he had gone back. [00:51:30][80.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:51:31] Wow. [00:51:31][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:51:32] And it was some kind of springs that he was born in. Springs. Sulfur Springs? Is it on here? I can't remember what it was. [00:51:50][18.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:52:09] Can you talk a little more about your parents? [00:52:11][2.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:52:12] Okay. [00:52:12][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:52:13] Who are your parents? [00:52:14][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:52:16] Haywood Cross and Lucy Carter Cross. I believe they met at the Alexandria Hospital. My father started out as a dishwasher. He was 13 years old. And it seems like a lady was walking through the neighborhood, which was Color Rosemont, and she asked him if he wanted to work. And he said, "You have to ask my Mama." So she asked Granny. And Granny said, "If he wants to, he can." And that was washing those dishes. Daddy started being an orderly. And he did that for a long time. I don't know that they even have people like orderlies now. [00:53:00][44.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:53:01] And he was working in the hospital right? [00:53:02][1.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:53:02] In the hospital yeah. And my mother worked at the nursing homes. I don't know if you ever heard of them. They were across the street from the hospital on Columbus Street, different houses, and then that big building on the corner of Prince Street. That was one of them, too. And they used to clean those. Mom and Daddy had a house in the 300 block of North Patrick Street. And when they went to work, I went too, because they took me around on Princess Street to the 900 block. The house is still there. It's blue, colored blue (inaudible). That's the house

my uncle built for my aunt, my mother's Aunt Lizzie. And that's where she would keep me until they came home. It was nice, a nice arrangement, but somehow or another it just didn't work out. And that's why I wound up out in Color Rosemont with my grandmother and grandfather. My mother continued, She worked in different jobs and she worked at Cameron Station for years as a cashier, and I think that ladies name was Blankenship, I think was a direct supervisor there in the commissary I think. My father, like I said, continued to work at Alexandra Hospital. And at times, he would serve parties and Mama would also serve parties. Sometime they'd end up serving parties together. But they still were very supportive of me. My mother ended up marrying again, and she moved to Florida. I have a half brother. His name is Harold Roy. My father ended up marrying and he stayed in the area. [00:55:08][125.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:55:11] Just so I understand, your parents separated? [00:55:13][1.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:55:14] Yes, they separated and divorced. [00:55:14][0.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:55:17] And is that why you moved to Color Rosemont? [00:55:19][2.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:55:20] Yes. [00:55:20][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:55:20] Yes. Okay. Got it. [00:55:21][1.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:55:22] Yes. That's why. [00:55:22][0.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:55:23] Got it. Got it. [00:55:24][0.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:55:25] Yes. And my stepmother, her name was Bernie Dundess Cross. And I have two half sisters from that marriage. And that was Lydia and Ellie, Eleanor Cross. And then my father had a set of twins. And then a son, Robert Cross, whose named after my grandfather. And Gloria and Dolores Cross. So... [00:55:53][28.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:55:56] What was it like when your parents separated? How old were you? [00:56:00][3.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:56:00] I was four. [00:56:01][0.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:56:02] You were four. Do you have any memories of that time? [00:56:02][0.7]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:56:05] Not that much. I just know that my aunts and all did for me. And even my uncles, they did for me. I don't think I was a hard child to raise or anything. I remember my father went away to the war. All, all of my grandmother's sons went into the war. [00:56:29][23.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:56:30] World War II? [00:56:30][0.7]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:56:34] Uh huh. Four of them. My father and my uncle met in Hawaii after it was bombed. Daddy said they would talk, he was talking to some more guys and somebody said when Daddy introduced himself, "Oh, Cross is an odd name." He says another fellow, last name Cross, come to find it was my Uncle Charles. My other uncle, Richard. He was stationed right over at Andrews. And my other uncle, he got bad with Granny when he went and joined the army. And when they sent for him, he begged them not to take him. He didn't want to go, but he went into the Army. But I don't know exactly where Horace was stationed at. [00:57:29][55.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:57:33] Got it. Got it. [00:57:33][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:57:40] But when Richie came back, I don't know if he had married Theresa Douglas before he went into service or not. Anyway, Grandpa had a house built on that lot. And that's where they stayed, until they got another house. [00:57:58][18.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:00] Since we're talking about Color Rosemont, do you know where the name comes from? Why people call it Color Rosemont? [00:58:10][9.9]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:58:11] I'm thinking because across the track, it was White Rosemont. Now I don't know where, how they came to call it like that. Know where G.W [George Washington University] is? The School? Well, I think that's why. The tracks separating it. [00:58:23][11.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:24] Right. Interesting. Do you have any memories of Miss Thomas? Because Miss Thomas owned that land, right? [00:58:31][7.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:58:31] She owned those houses. And I couldn't tell you what that lady looked like or what. [00:58:34][2.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:35] Oh, well... [00:58:35][0.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:58:36] I don't remember that. I do remember going up there a couple of times to take the rent. [00:58:40][3.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:41] And that's about it? [00:58:42][0.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:58:44] I cant, I just... [00:58:44][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:44] Did you ever hear anything about her? [00:58:45][1.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:58:45] No, I never did. But I tell you what, I never understood why they would build a house and they wouldn't put closets in them. None of those houses had closets but they were nice houses. [00:58:55][9.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:58:58] And I have a question about that, but really quick. Do you know when the homes, those homes that she built, when they were torn down and replaced? [00:59:10][12.7]



**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:59:14] They are in the process now. They're getting torn down now. I don't know when they will be replaced. [00:59:21][6.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:59:21] Do you have any memories of any of them being torn down prior? [00:59:25][3.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:59:27] No. [00:59:27][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [00:59:28] I'm just curious. You mentioned the closets, can you describe your grandparents house? [00:59:34][5.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [00:59:36] There were four bedrooms, living room, dining room and kitchen, and they had a toilet on the back porch. And later on, my grandfather had a bathroom put on the back porch as well as a bathroom in the house he built next door. [00:59:57][20.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:00:00] That's great. [01:00:01][1.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:00:06] On wash day, when you had to wash clothes that was something else too. You had to hang clothes on the lines. And then you had like four tubs in the kitchen. You had a washing machine, you used to the sink, and then you had a bluing tub and then you had a clear water tub. So you had, just about all day long you were washing clothes. [01:00:26][19.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:00:27] That's wild. Wow. That's great. I'm kind of jumping around here. I was jotting things as you were saying them. But you mentioned that one of your teachers was Helen Day, right? [01:00:40][13.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:00:41] Yes. [01:00:41][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:00:42] You know, Helen Day is a big figure here. What are your memories of Helen Day? [01:00:46][4.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:00:46] Miss Helen? [01:00:46][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:00:47] Yeah. [01:00:47][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:00:48] Ms.. Helen was nice. She was also my choir director at Roberts. And she was involved in a lot, too, because I told you she was at the Hopkins house and the church and school. So Miss Ellen was quite active. You know, they named a post office after her? Yeah, She was nice. She knew my mother. All of them were raised out there on the south side. And they all went to church, the same church, Roberts. [01:01:32][44.5]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:01:34] That's good. Is there anything else about your schooling, about Parker Gray, that we haven't talked about? Like Lyles-Crouch or anything? [01:01:41][7.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:01:42] They had a good principal, Mr. Pitts, was really good. Very good. Very good. I always said that Williams, the former superintendent of schools, I'm sure he didn't like blacks, but he never came to Parker Gray, as far as I can remember. It's just like we were tokens. And when we got desks and things, our desks came from G.W. They were carved up where the kids had took knives and carved all in them, and our books were the same thing. But yet and still, we had to note down there if a page was missing, if it was torn, we had let the teachers know because at the end of school, when we turn our books back in, we would have to pay for something. Because they went through all that because they were told, I guess from the school board, I guess, that you had to do these things. It wasn't like slavery, but heck. Our teachers were good. We had good teachers. Miss, let me see, we had an elementary teacher. I remember Miss Laura Dorsey. Oh, Miss Mickey. Miss Alma Murray. Those are elementary teachers. And then in high school we had I think her first name was Miss Rose Brown. Her father was Reverend Ross. And she lived on Oronoco Street. We had Miss Adams. Miss Ruby Smith, she was a Home EC teacher. Miss Julia Pritchard. Miss Helen Day, Miss Bushrod. Mr. Patterson, he was the band instructor. Mr. Harlan, he was a science teacher. We had Coach Johnson, and then we had his wife, Miss Ruby Johnson. Mr. Floyd Chase. Miss Perry. And then you had Mr. Bracy, and later on you had Mr. Atkins, Reverend Atkins and Mr. Atkins to Bobby Atkins and Reverend Atkins. Miss Crawley, that was at Lyles-Crouch, she was the principal. Miss, what was that lady's name? We had a French teacher, her maiden name was Luggett. And we had an English teacher. Oh, what's her name? She had big, pretty legs, a prissy lady. [laughing] What was her name? You had to go through her before you got out of school. You had certain teachers that you automatically had to go through. [01:05:23][220.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:05:23] You had to go through, yeah. [01:05:23][0.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:05:24] Yeah. Oh, but they had good teachers, a lot of those teachers had degrees. In later life, you found out a lot of white teachers didn't have those degrees, but still, they didn't get the salary, they didn't get the accolades or whatever that other teachers got. Plus the children, then, I think they respected teachers. As well as respecting their parents. Now, children don't respect nobody. And it was terrible. It's terrible. [01:05:57][33.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:06:00] I mean, you know, you talked about in terms of the desks, you know, this is the treatment that that black schools received. [01:06:11][10.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:06:11] Yes. [01:06:11][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:06:12] Can you talk more about it? If you're comfortable talking about, like what was what was it like living in Alexandria during segregation? [01:06:18][5.7]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:06:18] You get used to it. You know where you can go and you know where you shouldn't go. And our parents make sure we remember those things. If you were to go down on King Street and if you had to go to bathroom, they had segregated bathrooms and separate water things. And if you wanted a hot dog, you had to stand up at the counter. If you wanted it, you could not sit down. But we knew all those things. And that's why my husband always said, "Whys it every time you go out, you have to go to bathroom, you tell 'em to go to the bathroom?" I said, "because

that was instilled in me when I was young." You don't go to these places. You go to the bathroom first. [01:07:01][43.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:07:02] Wow. [01:07:02][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:07:04] So, you know, you just learn to do these things and you learn to stay in your own corner. For the busses, you go to the back of the bus. All those things were happening here, but we didn't, I guess we didn't have enough people to go then to go to protest this stuff. Now, you had the library with Mister Strange and all of them. Well, that was just a blessing. My husband worked, and I think the lady was at Goodwin house. And she was at the desk down there and she said that they did not know what to do about the situation. And I'm saying, the police and the other people did not know what to do about the situation, about those guys who came in. All they did was went in there. They were neatly dressed. They didn't even rally or nothing. But that hanging they said about. I didn't know anything about that hanging, those two hangings they mentioned about. I had no idea about those hangings. [01:08:13][69.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:08:13] The... [01:08:13][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:08:15] McCoy and somebody else. I had no idea. [01:08:16][1.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:08:17] The lynchings. Yeah. [01:08:17][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:08:18] Oh, and my mother's mother was a person that had that virus in 1916. They had her picture in the paper about that virus. [01:08:30][11.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:08:30] Wow. [01:08:30][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:08:30] Bessie. [01:08:30][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:08:30] Wow. Wow. Great, great. Just before I get to my last questions. Is there anything that we haven't touched upon that you want to share? We've talked about a lot, but is there anything I haven't asked? [01:08:54][23.9]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:09:20] [Pause] It was 1972, about that Eisenhower Extension. Yeah, it was 1972. [01:09:25][5.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:09:33] You mentioned working on blocking the expressway. Were there any other efforts that you were part of, any community organizing or activism that you were part of? [01:09:43][10.5]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:09:47] I remember going down City hall when Ira Robertson was on the council. That was nice, because we wouldn't have known a lot of stuff that was going on if it had not been for him. And I used to be with Alice a lot. Alice Morgan. But she stuck with it, and I didn't. When John and I lived at 411 N. Pitt Street. There was an incident. It was on a Saturday night. Where

this man was walking and police had left the dog in the cars and the dog jumped out and attacked this black man. [01:10:30][43.6]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:10:32] Where was this? [01:10:32][0.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:10:33] On the 400 block of North Pitt Street. [01:10:34][0.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:10:37] What year? When was this? [01:10:38][1.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:10:39] Let's see, we moved out here. It had to be in the sixties. I live at 411 North Pitt Street, and right next door to me, the police came in this man's house. He had gotten in a fight down at the corner store, down on Princess Street. And he came home and his wife said he always had a habit because he'd been drinking, always had a habit of going in refrigerator and getting something to eat. The police came in his house, didn't knock or anything. And the houses were, I'm going to say something like this one, and you had a wide door and that would look into the kitchen and they saw him. He was in the refrigerator, and the man shot and killed the guy. I was home, because when John would do drive a cab on weekends to make extra money and I heard the shot, I still didn't know what was going on. And finally, this guy that worked at the jail, he came over and told me what had happened. He said they shot Emick. Emick is dead, and they don't know what to do about it. Oh, the police didn't know what to do. They were trying to get together inside the station. That was something big, too. [01:12:04][84.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:05] And this in the sixties? [01:12:06][1.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:12:07] It was the sixties. I'm sure it was the sixties. It could have been later because I... How many years did we stay down there? We didn't stay in the projects long. [01:12:18][11.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:22] Which housing project did you live in? [01:12:24][2.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:12:25] Right across the street from the old jail. Do you remember where the jail was? You know where the jail was on Pitt Street? [01:12:31][5.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:32] Yeah. Do you remember the name of the housing project? Do you remember, I'm trying to get a name? [01:12:36][4.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:12:37] Names? [01:12:37][0.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:38] That was across from the old jail street? [01:12:40][2.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:12:40] Across the street from Jenetta, a hot dog stand. [01:12:42][1.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:12:43] Yeah. [01:12:43][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:12:44] And then down further next to that was like, I think it was like for fire engines to come for maintenance. And the men used to sit out front. And then the next thing was the jail. And at that time, dogs were attacking black people left and right because if they go to serve a warrant to someone, the dog would attack the person when a person opened the door. [01:13:12][27.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:13:17] Wow. [01:13:17][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:13:21] It was something. Yeah. [01:13:25][3.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:13:30] Wow. Okay. So I have some some last questions to ask you. And they're more general. So, I'm just curious, if you could hold on to a memory for the rest of your life, which would it be? [01:13:54][24.4]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:13:56] John and I. My life. Our life together. [01:14:01][5.3]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:14:04] When did John pass? [01:14:04][0.6]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:14:07] April 1, 2020. [01:14:08][0.9]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:14:13] And what are some of the most important lessons you've learned in your life? [01:14:16][2.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:14:19] Important lessons. What I've always known was be courteous. Take care of my own things and help other people. And work with and help my family. I have 16 great grandkids. [01:14:36][17.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:14:38] Wow. [01:14:38][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:14:39] And I pray every day that they don't get in no kind of trouble. This wasn't what you asked, but I can't stand guns. I don't like guns. And there's so much stuff out here about the guns and about the ones you make and all that crap. My grandfather had a gun and he slept with it under his pillow. And whoever made his bed, because we had to make his bed, whoever made that bed, you had to move that pillow and move that gun. I couldn't stand that gun. I never forget what it looked like. It was a silver gun with a pearl hammer. I couldn't stand that gun. Because I think when people get mad, that's the first thing you want to grab is the gun. And these people out here now with guns, they don't know how to handle a gun. And I was told that, "you should get a gun." I said, "why should I get a gun when I don't know how to shoot a gun?" I'd be shooting myself. "Well, you should get that mace." I said "I'd be spraying myself." You know, if you're not used to those things and I have never been trained in those things, I don't need nothing like that. I just enjoy people. And I'm sorry that, I know life moves on, I'm not able to go out and help and do things like I used to do. I used like to pick up people and take them places, go around church, and maybe for decoration. I love to decorating that church. Church is beautiful when it's decorated. I don't know if I were pictured at or not, but it's beautiful. [01:16:12][93.8]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:13] Which church are you part of? [01:16:16][2.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:16] Robertson Memorial United Methodist in the 600 block of South Washington Street. You can come around any time. [01:16:21][5.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:21] How long have you been a member there? [01:16:23][1.1]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:23] Since I was 12 years old. [01:16:24][1.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:25] Wow. [01:16:25][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:26] Yes, indeed. That's a picture of John and I we were, for our 50th, and this is the three of us.[shows pictures to Francesco] Oh, yes. This is the Senior Services thing right here. [01:16:38][12.1]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:42] How would you like to be remembered? [01:16:43][1.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:48] I guess they talk about me smiling all the time. [01:16:50][2.0]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:52] Yeah. [01:16:52][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:53] They probably talk (inaudible). [01:16:54][0.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:16:54] You have a good smile. [01:16:54][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:16:55] Thank you. Talk about that and about things I used to do. When Damon's friends would come here and one boy said, "Mama B" and he called me "Gramma." "Gramma would switch the light switch, and I know it's time for dinner," he said. He says "Simon and Damon, they still playing the game, and I'm coming upstairs to eat." And about doing things for those guys. Those guys turned out to be dern good, dern good young men. Simon is a CPA and Bo has his own business and he's moved from Atlanta to Florida. And he was someplace else before Orlando, though. And he's doing good. Damon works for the State Department. Oh, I'm proud of them. [01:17:58][62.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:17:59] These are your grandchildren? [01:17:59][0.3]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:18:01] Oh, I have Damon is the one grandchild. The other two boys are friends of Damon. [01:18:05][4.2]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:18:05] Friends of his yeah. [01:18:05][0.0]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:18:06] I'm proud of them. I really am. Ashley has his own business, and, but I'm proud of them. I'm so proud of they haven't gotten in the trouble, that crazy stuff out here, drugs

and all this stuff that's out here. I just wish that things would be better, things would be better. [01:18:28][21.4]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:18:28] Is there anything you want to say before I turn the recorder off? Any last thoughts? [01:18:33][4.8]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:18:36] Well, I feel blessed to have a family and I have friends, some people don't have anybody to help them in anything at this age. I don't know what I would do without anybody. And by me liking people, you know, that means a lot. People say they can live in this world by themselves. They lying. They lying to themselves. You can't live in this world unless you have somebody to help you and the longer you live, the more you find out. I'm glad I was able to contribute something. If it's no more than my smile and my helping people, and people have told me what I have done for them. And sometimes I have forgotten what I have done. I am proud of that. Right now, I do a lot of calling to people. People that can't come out, can't do things. And I call them and say "Hi" and they think I'm doing fine. I said, "I ache too just like you ache." [laughing] But I don't want to stay in this bed and I don't want to stay in that chair all the time. So I say, "you have to try to get out." I used to walk around the neighborhood and all. They told me to stop doing that because I'm walking by myself. There's nobody there to walk with. And I used to walk out of Jameson, and since I'm walking worse than I used to, so in case I can't walk here, I have the lifts, chair lifts, but I try to walk up and down the steps as often without doing that. But I just want to be remembered as being a person who cared for others. [01:20:36][120.7]

**Francesco De Salvatore:** [01:20:38] Right. Well, thank you so much, Ms. Taylor. [01:20:39][1.2]

**Beatrice C Taylor:** [01:20:40] Thank you. Thank you. [01:20:40][0.0]