

Audio Transcript: Earl Weeks

Member of 3rd U.S. Colored Troops, TV Producer

My name is Earl Weeks. The communities that I'm in I would say, of course, African American, I'm a Marine veteran. I'm a Phi Theta Kappa, Honors Society member, alumni. I was president of my Phi Theta Kappa chapter for three years. I'm also a Civil War reanactor, a Revolutionary War reanactor. A former girlfriend of mine, her son was a gospel artist and I was his assistant manager. So I started filming him, and our journey, you know, like he went to California and he was in this huge contest in Beverly Hills. And he actually won. And I recorded, you know, everything that he did there. It was just, I want to say amazing, because it was new to me. And it was, it was just exciting, because I didn't know what was happening. And I was documenting his story, even though he didn't understand that. When you watch TV, and you see all these famous people, there was always this footage or pictures that they pull up, that the people probably forgot about. And what he didn't understand he thought it was like almost a joke that I was recording him and it wasn't important. And you know, I had to explain to him that "one day, you're gonna look back at this and be like, 'Thank God, we recorded.'"

After, you know, helping with recording him as an artist, I just started thinking about filming different things. And I wanted to put my own spin on it. So I looked at Community College of Philadelphia, and looked at their photography department. And I decided I needed to take classes there. And then we also had to take a video class. And that was when I really started learning about how to do video. And then during the class, we did a movie. We did a movie and a couple other things. But I was like a producer on a movie. And that's what really gave me a hunger to do more. I will say that PhillyCAM is something that's really powerful. You know, but that's if you see it. With PhillyCAM, I saw that I can make a whole bunch of programs. And, you know, maybe have you know, who knows 300-500 programs on TV, knowing that I

did it and they actually played on TV. You know, not that the world would know, but I know.