

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **K. Balasubramanian**

Mr. K. Balasubramaian was born in Chennai, India in December 1942. In 1967 he attended the University of Rhode Island for an undergraduate and Ph.D. after which he embarked on a 37-year career with Texas instruments.

In this interview he reviews his life, including his departure from India with only \$8 in his pocket and a \$250 cashier's check (a restriction of the Indian government) and the fortuitous circumstances he encountered on his journey.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Krishnan Balasubramanian – father

Lakshmi Balasubramanian – mother

Kanaka – maternal grandmothers

Rama Balasubramanian – spouse

Vidya Balasubramanian – daughter

Rajid Balasubramanian – son

Places / Businesses

Chennai (Madras), India

Bay of Begal

Malaysia

Singapore

Cambodia

Houston, Texas

Indian Institute of Technology

Bangalore, India

Baharat Electronics

University of Rhode Island

New York

Providence, Rhode Island

Stafford, Texas

Richmond, Texas

St. John's University, Houston

Rice University, Houston

Washington, D. C.

Metro Bank Board of Directors, Houston

Freescale Semiconductors Board of
Directors

Fulbright and Jaworski, Washington,
D. C.

Meenakshi Temple, Pearland, Texas

Events

Mr. Balasubramanian attended school in Chennai and was later tested for induction into the Indian Army. He was the only finalist but declined to take training. His work boss at an electronics business told him he missed an important opportunity, which changed Bala's life.

He applied for and was accepted as an engineering student at the University of Rhode Island. He flew to the U. S. with little money but managed to make acquaintances who helped him along the way.

After receiving his engineering degree Bala applied for a job with Texas Instruments (T. I.) in Dallas, Texas and was accepted but the job was in Houston, Texas. He began work here in 1969 and worked his way up to President of Japan's T. I. Business in Tokyo.

He married and had two children who did very well in school and successful careers.

Bala retired after 37 years at Texas Instruments and pursued interests in the community.