



New State Library Exhibit Honors Civil Rights Activist

For Immediate Release

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Sacramento, Calif. – In honor of Black History Month, the California State Library has opened a new exhibit in the first floor gallery of the California State Library Building at 900 N Street, Sacramento. The exhibit - Lift Ev'ry Voice: Tarea Hall Pittman and the NAACP, honors Tarea Hall Pittman who worked tirelessly throughout her life for civil rights, fair employment, equal housing, and education.

Pittman was instrumental in the passage of the California Fair Employment Practice Act, which was signed into law in 1959 by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown. This exhibit highlights photos and other material from the Tarea Hall Pittman Collection which the State Library is currently digitizing.

Born in Bakersfield in 1903, Pittman experienced racial prejudice but was still able to attend integrated schools there. She attended U.C. Berkeley where she met her future husband William Pittman, whom she married in 1927. Having dropped out of college when she married, she completed her degree in Social Service in 1939 from San Francisco State College.

Among her accomplishments in civil rights she helped to desegregate the Oakland Fire Department in 1952. During World War II, she organized protests against places like the Kaiser Shipyards to hire more African Americans. She dedicated her life to civil rights causes and helped pass Fair Employment Practice Laws in California, Arizona, Alaska, and Nevada.

The exhibit will be up through June 2020.

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library, and the Braille and Talking Book Library. www.library.ca.gov

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