

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE
MAY/JUNE 2014

#### INSIDE

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Roy Wilkins and the Civil Rights Movement

100 Years of ASCAP and Creativity

#### **PLUS**

- ► How the Library Helped Launch NASA
- Tonight: From Steve to Johnny to Jimmy
- Memories of the Way We Were

CRS

at

100

Informing the Legislative Debate Since 1914

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE

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#### Mission of the Library of Congress

The mission of the Library is to support the Congress in fulfilling its constitutional duties and to further the progress of knowledge and creativity for the benefit of the American people.

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### **FEATURES**

ASCAP: A Century of Creativity
The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has

supported the nation's creative community for more than 100 years.

The Power of One: Roy Wilkins and the Civil Rights Movement

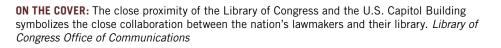
Civil Rights activist Roy Wilkins devoted his life to achieving equal rights under the law for the nation's African Americans.

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"Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon



A 1973 hit song



Founding NASA

#### **CONNECT ON**

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The Library in History

Flickr: flickr.com/photo/library\_of\_congress Library of Congress blogs: blogs.loc.gov LCM online: loc.gov/lcm



### **BECOME A LIBRARY VOLUNTEER**

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS to greet the more than 1.6 million visitors, who come each year to its Capitol Hill campus. Approximately 300 dedicated volunteers work to greet and provide educational experiences to visitors and researchers. The volunteers use their knowledge and experience as they lead tours of the magnificent Thomas Jefferson Building and help visitors find their ways to the Library's treasures and many public programs and resources. The following volunteer opportunities exist for people outside the Library and those on

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LIBRARY**

- **1. Docents** lead informative tours of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building, explaining its art and architecture as well as the history and work of the Library. Many docents develop specialized tours on specific topics or exhibitions. On average, docents lead two tours each month.
- 2. Orientation/Information Desk volunteers welcome visitors as they enter the Jefferson and Madison Buildings and inform them of learning opportunities available during a visit to the Library. They also accommodate visitors by responding to any specific needs, such as directions on first steps to becoming researchers, requests for wheelchairs, restrooms, elevators and food services.
- **3. Researcher Guidance Desk** volunteers support new researchers in navigating the Library's website and determining which reading rooms are most relevant to their research.
- **4. Young Readers Center** volunteers work with visiting children (up to age 16) and their families.

#### MORE INFORMATION

**Volunteers Information** loc.gov/visit/volunteer/

Young Readers Center

Contact Karen Jaffe at kjaf@loc.gov

Library of Congress Docent Rod Pendleton leads a Library tour for the Shenandoah University Faculty. Shealah Craighead









### **HEEEERE'S JIMMY!**

#### HOST OF "THE TONIGHT SHOW" REMAINS A COVETED SPOT, EVEN 60 YEARS AFTER THE SHOW'S DEBUT.

Jay Leno's recent exit from "The Tonight Show" cleared the path for a new comedian on the block—Jimmy Fallon. Although this marks the second time Leno surrendered his host's seat on the evening talk show—the first time to Conan O'Brien in 2009 and now to Fallon—his 22-year tenure is second only to Johnny Carson's 30 years as "Tonight Show" emcee during the show's 60-year history.

The Library of Congress is home to Carson's papers. The collection, comprising approximately 47,600 items, includes reports, scripts, correspondence and production files for "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." Many of the scripts include notes from the show's longtime producer, Fred de Cordova, and highlight sections that were cut by network censors.

The late-night television talk show can trace its variety act roots back to vaudeville and its broadcasting roots to radio. Famous jokesters Bob Hope and Groucho Marx got their start on the vaudeville circuit. The Library holds the papers of both comedians. Two Library exhibitions feature Hope, Carson and Marx: "Bob Hope and American Variety," and "Hope for America: Performers, Politics and Pop Culture." Acknowledging their debt to Hope, Leno and talk-show host and comedian Stephen Colbert narrated introductory videos to these exhibitions.

Hope and Marx were frequent guests on "The Tonight Show." During his Oct. 5, 1965 appearance on the show, Marx became emotional about the Library's request for his papers.

"I was so pleased ... Having not finished public school to find my letters perhaps laying next to the Gettysburg Address I thought was quite an incongruity, in addition to being extremely thrilling ... I'm very proud of this."

Among the Library's collections that highlight the American variety show genre are radio scripts from Goodman Ace, "Amos 'n' Andy" and Fred Allen and The Sid Caesar Papers, containing television scripts for "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Comedy Hour." The Library's holdings also include 30 broadcasts of "Tonight Starring Jack Paar" [Paar succeeded Steve Allen and preceded Carson as host of "The Tonight Show], 1,500 broadcasts of the "Late Show with David Letterman," 750 "Conan O'Brien" shows, 1,000 "Tonight Show" broadcasts hosted by Jay Leno and a sound recording of excerpts from Carson's early years as host of "The Tonight Show."

-Erin Allen

#### MORE INFORMATION

**Johnny Carson Papers** 

hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003017

**Groucho Marx Papers** 

hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010073

From left, current "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon (Associated Press) and his predecessors Johnny Carson, Jack Paar and Steve Allen I New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

## technology at the Library

# MEMORIES OF A MOVEMENT

FIFTY YEARS LATER, THE CIVIL-RIGHTS MOVEMENT IS STILL ALIVE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO WERE THERE.

The Library of Congress in May will place 55 interviews online as part of the Civil Rights History Project.

The Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009 directed the Library and the Smithsonian Institution to conduct a survey of existing civilrights era oral-history collections. The resulting database, which is accessible on the Library's website, provides information about collections at more than 1,500 public institutions in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The legislation also called for recording new interviews with people who experienced the civil-rights struggle. The Smithsonian is selecting the interview subjects, and the interviews are being conducted through a program at the University of North Carolina. The American Folklife Center, which manages the project at the Library, catalogs the interviews, makes the video and transcripts available and provides the Smithsonian with copies for inclusion in the National Museum of African American History, scheduled to open on the National Mall in 2015.

Remembrances of the movement include the Freedom Rides (1961), the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963) and the Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965). The murders of civil rights activist Medgar Evers (1963) and Chicago teenager Emmett Till (1955) are also recalled by eye witnesses. Till, who was visiting relatives in Mississippi, was accused of whistling at a white woman.

"They drove off, and we never saw Emmett alive again," said his cousin, Simeon Wright, who recalled the night two men forcibly removed Till from the house.

Some of these oral histories will be included in the Library's new civil rights exhibition, "A Long Struggle for Freedom." (See story on page 10.)



The Library's Oral History Project is now accesible online.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

#### Civil Rights History Project

loc.gov/collection/civil-rights-history-project

#### **Civil Rights Oral Histories Database**

loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey

## **for you** at the Library Interlibrary Loan



WHAT: Interlibrary Loan WHO: Domestic or international libraries

libraries
WHERE: All items lent from the
Library of Congress collections
must be used on the premises of
the borrowing library.
COST: FREE

#### LIBRARY PATRONS MAY BORROW ITEMS

from the Library of Congress such as book and some microfilmed materials for a period of 60 days through interlibrary loan. Before submitting a request to receive Library of Congress materials through a participating borrowing institution (domestic and international academic, public or special libraries), library patrons should check the Library's online public access catalog. Not every item in the Library's catalog is actually held in the collection, and not everything in the collection can be lent or copied. Special collections such as serials, rare books, genealogy and local history, manuscripts and performing-arts materials do not circulate unless a microfilm copy exists.



# GOVERNMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE ARE WORKING TO MAKE THE NATION'S LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE ONLINE.

During the past year, the Library has been upgrading its free legislative information website known as Congress.gov to include more features such as the Congressional Record, committee reports, direct links from bills to cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, legislative process videos, committee profile pages and historic documents. Most recently, advanced search, browse and appropriations tables were added to the site's functionality.

Congress.gov will replace the nearly 20-year-old THOMAS. gov, due to be retired at the end of 2014.

In addition, the Library in 2013 launched a new app, "U.S. Constitution: Analysis and Interpretation," that includes extensive analysis and interpretation of Supreme Court constitutional case law by Library experts. Legal professionals, teachers, students and anyone researching the constitutional implications of a particular topic can easily locate constitutional amendments, federal and state laws that were held unconstitutional, and tables of recent cases with corresponding topics and constitutional implications. The app will be updated several times each year when decisions on cases with constitutional implications are issued by the court.

The free resource, which makes the nearly 3,000-page Constitution Annotated more accessible to more people, was developed in cooperation with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Government Printing Office.

#### **O** MORE INFORMATION

Legislative Information Congress.gov

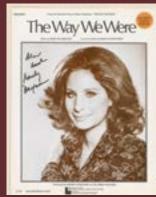
U.S. Constitution: Analysis and Interpretation beta.congress.gov/constitution-annotated loc.gov/apps





Alan Bergman, Marilyn Bergman and Marvin Hamlisch accept the Academy Award for "Best Song," 1974. ASCAP Foundation Collection, Music Division

#### "THE WAY WE WERE"



"Daydreams light the corners of my mind."

These might have been the lyrics sung by Barbara Streisand in the 1973 film "The Way We Were" if not for the minds—and pens—of songwriting team Marilyn and Alan Bergman. But the word "daydreams" was changed to "memories" and the result was the Academy Awardwinning song, "The Way We

Were" (autographed score pictured here) from the film of the same title.

The Bergmans' personal and professional collaboration, which began in the late 1950s, continues today. Lyricists for film, stage and television, they have earned 16 Academy Award nominations, multiple Emmys, Grammys and three Oscars.

The Bergmans have also devoted their lives to the rights of creative artists and the preservation of their work. Alan Bergman serves as a member of the Library of Congress National Film Preservation Board. Marilyn Bergman was elected president and chairman of the Board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1994, after five terms as the first woman ever to serve on ASCAP's Board of Directors. After leading the organization for 15 years, she continues to serve on ASCAP's Board. In 2002, she was appointed to chair the inaugural Library of Congress National Sound Recording Preservation Board.

#### **○** MORE INFORMATION

#### View ASCAP exhibition

loc.gov/exhibits/ascap-100-years-and-beyond

The Www Arewins lyto the conser of my mind Minly water call hennis of The way we were.

Joseph Pictures & the smiles we left them -

Can it he that it was find single then Or has time rewritten every line? It we had the chance to do it all a pain Tell me worldoe? could we?

"The Way We Were," Holograph lyrics, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, 1973 | ASCAP Foundation Collection, Music Division

> Them mai may he heartful and your LCM | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE





ASCAP HAS SUPPORTED THE NATION'S COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND PUBLISHERS FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

#### A CENTURY OF CREATIVITY

#### WENDI A. MALONEY

Members of the **American Society** of Composers, Authors and **Publishers** attend a dinner in honor of the organization's founding president George Maxwell and its legal counsel Nathan Burkan New York. 1914. ASCAP Foundation Collection, Music Division

On Feb. 13, 1914, composer Victor Herbert helped organize a meeting of 100 leaders in the music world at the Hotel Claridge in New York City to discuss how creators could best reap the financial benefits of their works. The result was the founding of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), a performance-rights organization that has for a century collected and distributed copyright royalties to its members.

Five years earlier, in a major revision of the U.S. copyright law, the U.S. Congress extended existing copyright protection of music. But it limited composers' public performance right—only "for profit" public performances could earn a royalty, the law stated without defining "for profit" in the context of the law.

In 1917, ASCAP achieved a major victory when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Herbert v. Shanley* that a New York City restaurant had to pay royalties

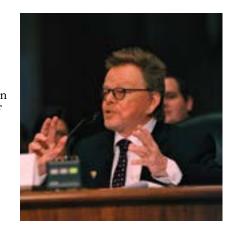
for music it played to entertain diners, because the music contributed to an ambience that allowed it to profit. The decision gave ASCAP the legal backing it needed to pursue licensing of music users.

The organization developed a system for licensing performance of music in restaurants, hotels, nightclubs, and anywhere else a performance of music was likely. In 1921, it made its first distribution of about \$82,000 to its songwriter and publisher members.

Today, ASCAP licenses the music of a half million members, collecting and redistributing royalties for performances in venues now including radio, television, the Internet, mobile services and beyond. In 2012, ASCAP distributed \$828.7 million in royalties.

"Because of ASCAP, I had gas for my car and could send my kids to school," said acclaimed songwriter Paul Williams, who has served as the organization's president since 2009.

Williams and fellow songwriter Jimmy Webb performed a selection of their hit songs at the Library of Congress on Feb. 25 to mark the opening of the Library's ASCAP exhibition on the occasion of the rights organization's centennial. They also discussed their good fortune to break into the industry when they did.



"Today the doors aren't opening for young writers with any degree of acceptable frequency," Webb said, partly because the music industry has grown so big. New technologies have also posed challenges to songwriters, who earn higher royalties from such physical media as CDs than they do for streamed music.

As new technologies for disseminating music have emerged, copyright law and regulations governing music licensing have evolved. But it has been nearly 40 years since President Gerald Ford signed the Copyright Act of 1976—the foundation for current U.S. copyright law. Since then, the technology for reproducing and performing music has changed dramatically—from vinyl records, eight-track and cassette tapes, and CDs to digital downloads, MP3 files, music lockers and peer-to-peer file-sharing.

All these new music technologies and services, while exciting for music lovers, have made it harder for songwriters to support themselves because of the way the marketplace values digital dissemination of music. ASCAP and others are calling for a thorough review of the U.S. music licensing system to make sure digital-era songwriters can continue to create.

"ASCAP embraces new technology," said Webb. "More songs are being disseminated more widely than ever now. But payments to songwriters have not kept pace."

Register of Copyrights Maria A. Pallante has called for a review of copyright law to determine whether aspects of it need modernization. The House Judiciary Committee is holding hearings on the subject, and Congress has asked the U.S. Copyright Office in the Library of Congress to prepare a study to address the critical copyright questions raised by new music technologies. The Copyright Office has solicited public comment on the issue to inform the study.

"We will work this out," said Williams, who applauded the efforts of Pallante and her staff in the Copyright Office. "Our goal is to never, ever stop the music," Williams added.

Wendi A. Maloney is a writer-editor in the U.S. Copyright Office.

#### MORE INFORMATION

#### View the ASCAP exhibition online

loc.gov/exhibits/ascap-100-years-and-beyond/

ASCAP president Paul Williams testifies before the U.S. Congress, March 15, 2012. ASCAP Foundation Collection, Music Division

The piano-vocal score for the musical "Wicked," by Stephen Schwartz, is housed in the ASCAP collection. *ASCAP Foundation Collection, Music Division* 



#### **ASCAP ON DISPLAY**

A new Library of Congress exhibition, "ASCAP: One Hundred Years and Beyond," marks the centennial of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. The display of 45 items drawn from the ASCAP Collection at the Library of Congress is accompanied by an interactive timeline and a film recalling notable moments and artists in the organization's history, exploring its current work and challenges and looking to its future as a force in mentoring and inspiring the creativity of new generations. Artists represented in the exhibition include Victor Herbert, Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland, Lyle Lovett, Garth Brooks, Hal David, Marvin Hamlisch, Barbra Streisand, Duke Ellington, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Stephen Schwartz, Adam Guettel, Carolina Chocolate Drops and more.

On view through July 26, 2014, in the Performing Arts Reading Room Gallery on the first level of the Library's James Madison Memorial Building, the exhibition is made possible with the support of the Ira and Leonore Gershwin Trust for the benefit of the Library of Congress.

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# The Power of One

### Roy Wilkins and the Civil Rights Movement

MARK HARTSELL

Civil Rights activist Roy Wilkins devoted his life to achieving equal rights under the law for the nation's African Americans.

A bust portrait of the Reverend Martin Luther King, seated next to NAACP Director Roy Wilkins I New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division The legacy of slavery, Roy Wilkins once wrote, divided African Americans into two camps: victims of bondage who suffered passively, hoping for a better day, and rebels who heaped coals of fire on everything that smacked of inequality. Wilkins belonged among the rebels.

"I have spent my life stoking the fire and shoveling on the coal," he wrote in his autobiography, "Standing Fast." Wilkins, the grandson of Mississippi slaves, devoted more than 50 years of that life to advancing the cause of civil rights, speaking for freedom and marching for justice. He led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during the civil rights movement's most momentous era—the years of freedom rides and bus boycotts, the March on Washington and the march from Selma, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights

Act of 1965, the murder of Medgar Evers and the police dogs and fire hoses of Birmingham.

Wilkins' family hailed from Mississippi, but his father was forced to flee to St. Louis after an altercation with a white man—one step, Wilkins recalled, ahead of a lynch rope.

Wilkins was born in St. Louis in 1901, followed closely by a sister and brother. His mother died when he was 5, and relatives contemplated sending the two older children back to Mississippi and the baby to Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Sam in St. Paul, Minn.

Sam wouldn't hear of it. "I won't break up a family," he telegraphed. "Bring all three." Those nine words changed Wilkins' life.

In St. Paul, Wilkins lived in an integrated, working-class neighborhood of Swedish,

Norwegian, German and Irish immigrants and attended integrated schools—experiences that later allowed him to view whites as civil-rights allies and to reject militant activism.

Sam emphasized hard work and education. No one can steal an education from a man, he'd say. He also taught Wilkins to keep faith in the goodness of others, that the world was not a wholly hostile place.

"Everything I am or hope to be I owe to him," Wilkins wrote.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Wilkins eventually edited an influential African-American newspaper in Kansas City, where he first encountered widespread segregation. Wilkins' work drew the attention of NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White, and in 1931 he moved to New York to



### REMEMBERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act and the struggle for racial equality, the Library of Congress will present a new exhibition. "The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom" will open on June 19, 2014, and remain on view through June 20, 2015. The exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from Newman's Own Foundation and with additional support from HISTORY.

Drawn from the Library's collections, the exhibition will include 200 items, featuring correspondence and documents from civil rights leaders and organizations, images captured by photojournalists and professional photographers, newspapers, drawings, posters and in-depth profiles of key figures in the long process of attaining civil rights.

Audiovisual stations will feature oralhistory interviews with participants in the Civil Rights Movement and television clips that brought the struggle for equality into living rooms across the country and around the world. Visitors also will hear songs from the Civil Rights Movement that motivated change, inspired hope and unified people from all walks of life. In addition, HISTORY has produced two videos about the legislation and its impact that will be shown in the exhibition. (See story on page 27.)

#### MORE INFORMATION

View the exhibition online loc.gov/exhibits



Leaders of the March on Washington lock arms as they walk down Constitution Avenue, Aug. 28, 1963, with Martin Luther King Jr., far left, and Roy Wilkins, second from right. New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

serve as White's chief assistant and, later, editor of The Crisis magazine. With the NAACP, Wilkins fearlessly took his cause to the streets. He led many protests, helped organize the historic 1963 March on Washington and participated in marches in Selma, Ala., and Jackson, Miss.

Wilkins mostly sought to force change within the system, through legislation and the courts. He led the legal efforts that culminated with the historic 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education that overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine in public schools—a decision, he said, that gave him his greatest satisfaction.

In 1955, Wilkins took over as the NAACP's director and implemented a strategy designed to get all three branches of the federal government actively working to advance civil rights.

Roy Wilkins meets with President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House to discuss strategies for securing passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. *Prints and Photographs Division* 

"We wanted Congress and the White House to come out of hiding and line up alongside the Supreme Court on segregation," he wrote.

The legal cases, protests and marches helped produce historic legislation in the 1960s, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964—a measure Wilkins called a "Magna Carta for the race, a splendid monument for the cause of human rights."

Wilkins retired from the NAACP in 1977 and died in 1981, leaving behind an America radically changed for the better.

"The only master race is the human race," he once said, "and we are all, by the grace of God, members of it."

Mark Hartsell is the editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.



NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

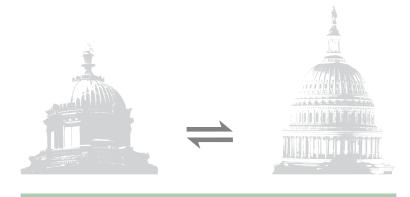
### CIVIL RIGHTS RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The collections held by the Library of Congress for the study of the 20th-century Civil Rights Movement include the original records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Urban League, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. The Library also holds the microfilmed records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

These records are enhanced by the papers of such prominent activists as Roy Wilkins, Moorfield Storey, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Joseph Rauh, Mary Church Terrell, Jackie Robinson. Oral histories from people who experienced the Civil Rights Movement will soon be available online. (See story on page 4.)

#### MORE INFORMATION

Manuscript Reading Room loc.gov/rr/mss





Informing the Legislative Debate Since 1914

The centennial of the Congressional Research Service is a time to look back on its history and ahead to serving a 21st-century Congress.



An all-staff meeting is held in the Senate Reading Room (now the Jefferson Congressional Reading Room), 1948. *Andreas Feininger, Prints and Photographs Division* 

When the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) was established in the Library of Congress in 1914, the small staff provided what its name conveyed—reference information to assist Members of Congress in their legislative work. Over 100 years, LRS evolved into today's Congressional Research Service (CRS), a staff of 600 that exclusively provides Congress with nonpartisan policy analysis.

CRS is known for its reports, but what makes CRS is its people—analysts, attorneys, information professionals, and management and infrastructure support staff. These staff members carry out services in support of the modern mission: to provide objective, authoritative and confidential legislative research and analysis, thereby contributing to an informed national legislature.

"The success of CRS in fulfilling its statutory mission is a direct result of diligent professional staff, entrusted with the critical task of researching issues and analyzing information and data for elected officials," said CRS Director Mary B. Mazanec.

#### Tailored, Personalized Service To Congress

CRS staff members respond to specific congressional questions in a variety of ways: in person, by telephone and in confidential memoranda. CRS staff members also assist Members of Congress and their staffs in preparing for hearings and provide expert testimony.

For example, the House Armed Services Committee last year invited Catherine Dale, a specialist in international security, to testify about the transition in Afghanistan—the formal handover of security responsibility from coalition to Afghan forces. "My role was to frame key oversight issues before other witnesses presented their proposed prescriptions," said Dale. "Afterward, members and staff from both sides of the aisle sought me out for assistance."

### A RESEARCH SERVICE FOR CONGRESS



"Congress has taken an important step to rendering the business of lawmaking more exact, economically

sound and scientific."

So said Wisconsin Sen. Robert La Follette Sr. (pictured above) in July 1914, when Congress approved legislation that would create the Legislative Research Service (forerunner of the Congressional Research Service). La Follette had introduced a floor amendment to the Library's fiscal year 1915 appropriations bill that included funding for legislative research.

The idea that legislators should have reference services to support their policymaking efforts had begun with American librarian Melvil Dewey in 1890. Dewey established a bureau in the New York State Library to index and compare state legislation. In 1901, the state of Wisconsin authorized a library in the state capitol for legislators' use and began funding a designated legislative reference bureau in 1903. More than a dozen state legislatures created legislative reference services during the next decade.

In 1911, Oklahoma Sen. Robert Latham Owen Jr. offered the first proposal to establish a legislative reference service for Congress. Among the strongest supporters were two legislators from Wisconsin—Sen. Robert M. La Follette Sr. and Rep. John M. Nelson.

Supporters of a congressional reference service realized their goal when, on July 16, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Library's fiscal 1915 appropriations bill. Two days later, Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam established the Legislative Research Service by administrative order.

#### THEN AND NOW Francis R. Valeo, chief of the Foreign Affairs Section, consults with Mary Shepard, analyst in international organization, 1951. Prints

and Photographs Division

Library staff members Judy Graves and Pamela Craig conduct a webinar on Congress.gov, 2013. Abby Brack Lewis

#### THEN AND NOW

LRS Director Ernest S. Griffith (center) leads the Director's Council, 1951. Prints and Photographs Division

Current CRS Director Mary Mazanec (back row, center) leads the Research Policy Council, 2013. Karl Weaver, Congressional Research Service









#### REPORTS ON MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

CRS analysts, legislative attorneys and information professionals prepare reports on legislative issues. CRS's analyses are available to all of Congress on an exclusive CRS website, where nearly 10,000 reports are searchable and organized by issue area.

"I issued a report within 24 hours of a tragic wildfire incident," said Kelsi Bracmort, a specialist in agricultural conservation and natural-resources policy. "The short report succinctly described one facet of wildfire management, directed the reader to other related reports, and, most importantly, immediately let Congress know that there was a CRS policy specialist available to discuss this matter in depth."

#### Assistance Throughout the Legislative Process

Throughout all stages of the legislative process, CRS works with committees, members and congressional staff to identify and clarify policy problems, assess the implications of proposed policy alternatives and provide timely responses to meet immediate and long-term needs.

"Congress relies on CRS's legal expertise in many stages of the legislative process," said Julia Taylor, who heads the American Law Consulting Section. "Before a bill is introduced, we're often asked to research legal definitions for terms or conduct a survey of state laws to see how an issue has been handled across the country. As the bill moves through Congress, we research issues relating to the potential impact of the new law. Congressional staff may ask about the nature of recent litigation. They may also ask for research related to floor statements the member would like to make when the bill comes up for debate."

# CRS at 100

#### **■ July 1914**

On July 16, President Woodrow Wilson approves the fiscal 1915 appropriations bill, which includes \$25,000 for legislative reference. Two days later, Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam establishes the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) by administrative order

constitutional

#### ■ 1930s

LRS responds to a congressional directive to publish a digest of public bills and takes over the production of the "Constitution Annotated," a compilation of case law, which the Library began publishing in 1913.

#### ■ Early 1940s

World War II leads to rapid growth in LRS, with every senator and a majority of U.S representatives turning to LRS for reference assistance.

#### **1946**

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 calls for an immediate increase in the size and scope of LRS to meet the information needs of Congress in the post-war era.

A Timeline

#### ■ 1950s

LRS assists Congress on issues such as the Cold War, civil rights, social security. and science and technology. The press calls LRS "Congress's right arm."

#### ■ 1970s

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 transforms and renames LRS. The newly restructured Congressional Research Service (CRS) becomes Congress's own think tank for objective, nonpartisan policy analysis.

#### **1980**

CRS establishes the La Follette Reading Room in the Library's new James Madison Memorial Building to honor Senators Robert M. La Follette Sr. and his son, Robert, for their support for a congressional research department in the Library of Congress.

#### **1981**

CRS holds its first Federal Law Update briefings on current legal topics of interest to Congress, which continue to the present day with new programs and workshops on policy issues.

#### **1995**

CRS launches CRS.gov, a website for Congress. At Congress's request, the Library develops an online public legislative information-tracking system known as THOMAS. CRS develops the Legislative Information System (LIS) to serve the legislative branch.

#### **2012**

The Library of Congress, in collaboration with the U.S. Senate. House of Representatives and the Government Printing Office, launches Congress.gov, an improved website that will replace the legacy legislative tracking systems for Congress and the public.

#### **2013**

The Library of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Government **Printing Office** launch the "Constitution Annotated," a new app and web publication that make the printed version of constitutional case law accessible for free on a computer or mobile device.

#### **2014**

CRS celebrates its centennial. CRS continues to enhance its staff capabilities. diversify its research products and streamline its website.

Timeline: From left, images from the Library's Prints and Photographs Division represent the history of the Congressional Research Service from 1914 to the present.

LCM | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE May/June 2014 | Loc.gov/LCM

#### **CORE VALUES**

Throughout its long history, the Congressional Research Service has provided authoritative, confidential and objective research to the nation's lawmakers.

#### Authoritativeness

"Our main value is in providing authoritative answers to Congress's questions. We work to ensure that our analyses can withstand rigorous scrutiny from all angles."

—Edward C. Liu, legislative attorney

#### Confidentiality

"Confidentiality is important for building confidence, especially among new congressional staff. New staffers fear asking the wrong questions, yet they still have much to learn about their assigned policy issues. The CRS policy of confidentiality puts them at ease and allows them to learn and amass the self-confidence necessary to hold productive discussions with policymakers."

—Darryl E. Getter, specialist in financial economics

#### **Objectivity**

"I worked closely with a leadership office and committee staff to reauthorize a program for vulnerable children. I assisted both sets of clients with developing their policy goals, even though their goals were divergent. Drawing on my experiences from the last program reauthorization, I provided authoritative analyses of two different proposals. Both clients remarked that they were glad to have me involved, because I was not vested in the outcome, but rather in helping meet their legislative objectives."

—Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara, social policy specialist

## JEREMY M. SHARP, A MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, DISCUSSES HOW HE APPLIES HIS EXPERTISE TO SERVE CONGRESS.

As a graduate student in Middle Eastern studies aspiring to be an intelligence analyst and entering the workforce in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, I had opportunities at several different agencies. I chose the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in the Library of Congress because of its uniqueness as a provider of opensource, objective and confidential analysis to Members of Congress and their staff. I made the right decision; I have one of the best jobs imaginable.

When aspiring policy analysts ask me how my work plays out on a daily basis, I tell them that I consider myself to be an informational middleman, someone who synthesizes complex, country-specific information from a variety of sources so that it can be neatly organized and packaged for our clients.

To meet the needs of busy congressional staff members, you need to figure out what they need to know, while being able to go into more depth, if necessary. I spend a lot of time sifting through materials to glean the one or two sentences of key information that would support a certain analytical finding. The writing process then becomes an exercise in conveying the big picture with enough supporting information to be considered authoritative and credible.

My most challenging issue is Egypt. It has changed enormously in the past three years and sparked a vigorous public debate over how the U.S. government should respond. At the heart of this debate is whether Congress should continue to appropriate \$1.55 billion annually in military and economic aid to an Egyptian government that some Americans perceive to be acting undemocratically. As a CRS expert, I must outline the contours of the debate in an objective fashion. Moreover, when legislation to alter U.S. aid to Egypt is under consideration by the Congress, staff—on both sides of the issue—seek assistance in understanding both what has been done in the past and what the implications would be if new laws are passed.

To stay current in my area of expertise, I rely a lot on my colleagues. We have a great team in



the Middle East and Africa Section, and we are constantly bouncing ideas off one another. I also am in contact with the Library of Congress Cairo Office, which generously hosted me during a trip to Egypt several years ago.

In January, I testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats at a hearing on "Water as a Geopolitical Threat." My testimony focused on an agreement among Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to pursue a Red Sea-Dead Sea project in response to their shared water problems.

Testifying was both invigorating and terrifying all at once. Hence, I over-prepared. Each written sentence was carefully reviewed by colleagues for accuracy and relevancy. My oral testimony had to fall within a five-minute time allotment. I rehearsed in the shower, in back rooms at the Library, and in front of my peers, who gratifyingly drilled me with questions.

Ultimately, I think Members of Congress appreciate having a CRS staff member on a panel. We can frame an issue objectively without engaging in advocacy.

"At the Library, I have the best of both worlds: I am digitally wired-in. with access to an array of electronic subscription-based services unavailable elsewhere. Yet, at the same time, I have the luxury of immersing myself in the Library's stacks. This balance allows me to be an analyst in real-time, with the added value of providing

an historical

perspective."

#### PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

CRS assists lawmakers and their staffs in understanding the formal and informal rules, practices and precedents of the House and Senate and how they might be employed in the legislative process.

"I'm part of a group that supports Congress on legislative rules and procedures," said Valerie Heitshusen, analyst on Congress and the legislative process. "We consult on legislative strategy, analyze current and historical procedural practices, and explain implications of potential procedural options. Examples include helping senators assess proposed changes in the practice of filibusters, serving as a procedural resource in committee markups, and identifying the range of opportunities Members of Congress may have to offer amendments to pending legislation."

#### THE FUTURE

In its first century, CRS has acquired a store of knowledge and experience that Congress can rely on. At the present time, when there is an overwhelming amount of information readily available, it is even more essential that Members of Congress have access to issue experts in CRS who can assist them by gathering, analyzing and summarizing the most pertinent information.

"We work in an environment in which many entities are competing for members' time and attention," said Director Mazanec, who is involving the entire staff in developing formats and delivery methods for CRS products and services that are most helpful to the 21st-century Congress.

"CRS will stay true to its values and align with Congress's needs. We want Congress to turn to CRS first when it is in need of research and analysis to support its deliberations and legislative decisions."

"CRS will continue to provide Congress with the independent scholarship required as it embarks upon its second century of distinguished service," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

Cory V. Langley, a communications specialist in the Congressional Research Service, compiled this article.

May/June 2014 | Loc.gov/lcm





President Dwight D. Eisenhower, center, meets with NASA's first administrator and deputy administrator, Thomas Keith Glennan, right, and Hugh Dryden, left, 1958. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### LIBRARY ANALYST HELPED LAUNCH NASA

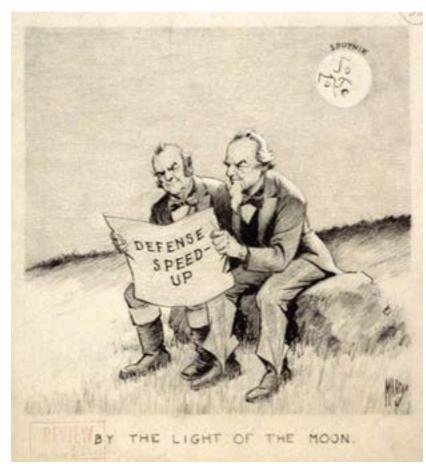
AMID FEAR AND ANXIETY FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH OF SPUTNIK 1, A LIBRARY ANALYST ASSISTED CONGRESS IN CREATING THE AGENCY THAT LANDED AMERICANS ON THE MOON.

The American public was shocked, and its leaders were concerned for national security when, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1—the first artificial Earth satellite.

Lyndon B. Johnson, then a U.S. senator and chairman of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called on a national defense analyst in the Legislative Reference Service (forerunner of the Congressional Research Service) to assist Congress in determining how to respond.

Library analyst Eilene Galloway had recently authored a report for Congress titled "Guided Missiles in Foreign Countries" and had focused on the issue of military manpower and the organization of the Department of Defense. Johnson asked Galloway to serve as the subcommittee's staff consultant for a series of hearings on satellite and missile programs, at which Members of Congress heard the testimony of preparedness experts, scientists and engineers. Galloway drafted questions and analyzed testimony.

"While our first reaction was that we faced a military problem of technology inferiority, the testimony from scientists and engineers convinced us that outer space had been opened as a new environment and that it could be used



A 1957 political cartoon by Edwin Marcus depicts America's concern for defense in the wake of the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik. *Prints and Photographs* Division

worldwide for peaceful uses of benefit to all humankind, for communications, navigation, meteorology and other purposes," Galloway wrote in 2007.

"Use of space was not confined to military activities," she wrote. "It was remarkable that this possibility became evident so soon after Sputnik, and its significance cannot be understated. The problem became one of maintaining peace, rather than preparing the United States to meet the threat of using outer space for war. Fear of war changed to hope for peace."

With those ideas in mind, Galloway advised Sen. Johnson and House Speaker John McCormack in crafting the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Thus, Galloway entered the frontier of space policy. Her seminal contributions to the act included her recommendations that NASA be formed as an administration, so that it could coordinate with government agencies under centralized guidance, and that NASA be encouraged to act

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the act into law on July 29, 1958 just nine months after the launch of Sputnik. Eleven years later, Apollo 11 delivered Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon.

> —Cory V. Langley is a communications specialist in the Congressional Research Service.



#### **EILENE GALLOWAY**



### **MEREDITH SUND**

MEREDITH SUND DESCRIBES HER JOB AS HEAD OF THE DOMESTIC POLICY CONSULTING SECTION IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (CRS).

#### How did you come to work for CRS?

I knew I wanted to work at CRS before I even went to graduate school. I was considering options for graduate programs and finally decided on library science. I thought I would love a place like CRS where I could focus on research work. When it was time for an internship, I went straight to CRS and asked to work in the Information Research Division, which at the time was a division of about 100 librarians who answered research questions on virtually any issue of interest to Congress. It was a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment, and I really liked it. The next year, I was hired by CRS as a reference librarian through the Graduate Recruit Program. A lot has changed in the 13 years I've been at CRS, and it's still a great place to work.

#### What does the Domestic Social Policy Consulting Section do?

The section conducts policy-related research for congressional staff and CRS analysts. For example, we compile legislative histories and literature reviews, assemble information about federal programs and funding, answer statistical questions and provide document delivery services. We work on the topics covered by the Domestic Social Policy Division, including health, education, immigration, employment and housing. A lot of our work involves helping congressional staff get the information they need to respond to constituents, who always have questions about federal programs that touch their lives such as Medicare and Social

As section head, I manage a team of 16 information professionals. On a daily basis, I assess and assign congressional requests and review the team's responses. CRS information professionals write and contribute to the development of research products for Congress, so I also help with planning and provide review for those reports. I also spend time on performance evaluations and other administrative duties. I do squeeze in research requests every once in a while, because that is my favorite part of the job.



#### What is different about working in CRS compared to a different library setting?

Information professionals in my section in CRS are focused almost exclusively on conducting policy research for Congress. In other library settings, and particularly in smaller libraries, librarians may perform a more diverse array of library work, including collection development and access.

Another difference is the depth and breadth of the resources we have available. CRS makes a considerable investment in databases and resources, and we also have full access to the vast collections of the Library of Congress. In addition to print and electronic resources, we have access to some of the nation's leading policy experts in the analysts and attorneys we work alongside. I don't think there are many other librarians who can draw on those types of resources in their work.

#### What do you find most fulfilling about your job?

I feel fortunate to work with a team of talented, experienced information professionals. Congressional and CRS staff members have complex research needs and my section has a consistently high volume of requests from them. We often face additional constraints, including limited time to respond or the quality of the information available to answer a question. In that context, I enjoy working with our clients and the information professionals to get to the best possible research product. Every day I am impressed with the highvalue, authoritative research that CRS information professionals are able to provide to our nation's lawmakers.



#### A TUNNEL CONNECTS THE LIBRARY OF **CONGRESS** to the U.S. Capitol Visitor

Center—an underground gathering place for visitors to the U.S. Capitol. Once there, visitors can view "E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One," in Exhibition Hall—the only display in the world dedicated to telling the story of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Capitol. The

display features original documents and artifacts, videos, models and computer interactives. Two small theaters provide an in-depth look at how Congress works, as well as information on congressional representatives and senators. Other rotating exhibits feature items drawn from the Library of Congress and other institutions.

#### MORE INFORMATION:

#### Hours:

The Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress and the tunnel are open to visitors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Inauguration Day.

#### Visit the Library of Congress

loc.gov/visit

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- 1. Moderated by Senate Chaplain Barry Black, left, the Library hosts an African American History month forum featuring former and current African American U.S. Senators, from left, Carol Moseley Braun (D-III.), Roland Burris (D-III.), Tom Scott (R-S.C.), William "Mo" Cowan (D-Mass.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.).
- 2. Jazz singer Gregory Porter performs at the Library March 8. *Kimberly Powell*
- 3. Sports Byline USA's Ron Barr, right, NBA veteran Adonal Foyle, center, and former Baltimore Ravens coach Brian Billick, left, participate in a roundtable discussion at the Library on March 14.
- 4. Library staffer Jacqueline Coleburn views a special display of works by women writers and illustrators drawn from the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division.
- 5. Curator Hirad Dinavari, right, greets visitors at the opening of the exhibition, "A Thousand Years of the Persian Book," on March 26.
- 6. From left, ASCAP President Paul Williams, Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.) and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington formally open the "ASCAP: 100 Years and Beyond" exhibition on Feb. 25.

All photos by Shealah Craighead unless noted otherwise.



### SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The 2014 Library of Congress National Book Festival will take place 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The move from the National Mall to the Convention Center will provide many more seats for festival-goers, protection from both heat and rain and the addition of evening activities between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

In addition to a day-time program of author talks, book-signings and family and children's activities, nighttime offerings will feature "Great Books to Great Movies," a pavilion that will offer an evening panel discussion with experts and film-industry figures, followed by a screening of a classic movie that was made from a classic book. A new International Pavilion, featuring authors from around the world will also be part of the new evening offerings. The National Book Festival is free and open to the public.

► MORE: loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-007.html

### MAGNA CARTA EXHIBITION OPENS NOV. 6

Magna Carta, one of the earliest statements of limited government and a point of departure for centuries of debate on individual rights, Magna Carta has become the world's most enduring symbol of the rule of law. The Library of Congress will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the first issue of Magna Carta with a 10-week exhibition "Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor," opening Nov. 6, and running through Monday, Jan. 19, 2015.

The Lincoln King John 1215 Magna Carta, on loan from the Lincoln Cathedral in England, will be the centerpiece of the exhibition. In addition, there will be rare materials from the Law Library of Congress and from various other divisions of the Library, which will tell the story of Magna Carta's influence on the history of political liberty.

► MORE: loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-027.html

### WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY ADDS 10,000TH ITEM

The World Digital Library (wdl.org), a collaborative international project led by the Library of Congress, now includes more than 10,000 manuscripts, maps and atlases, books, prints and photographs, films, sound recordings, and other cultural treasures.

The 10,000-item milestone was reached with the addition of a set of priceless manuscripts from the Walters Art Museum of Baltimore, Md., a project partner since 2010. The manuscripts range from a 10th- century German Gospel book fragment to a 16th-century Gospel manuscript from Ethiopia.

With these additions, the WDL includes 10,037 rare and unique items, comprising nearly 500,000 images. Content contributed by 102 institutions in 46 countries is available on the WDL site, which can be accessed in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

MORE: loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-035.html

### LIBRARY ACQUIRES AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORAL HISTORIES

The Library will acquire The HistoryMakers archives, a video collection comprising 9,000 hours of oral history interviews that document the African-American experience. The HistoryMakers, a nonprofit research and educational institution, was founded in 1999 by television producer Julieanna Richardson with the goal of collecting 5,000 video oral histories.

To date, more than 2,500 videotaped interviews have been conducted, and the collection is growing. The videos are grouped in 15 different subject matters ranging from education, science, politics and military to sports, media, music and entertainment. The collection includes interviews with a long list of notables such as President Barack Obama when he was an Illinois state senator, General Colin Powell, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, entertainer/activist Harry Belafonte, poets Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni, singers Isaac Hayes and B.B. King, and actors Diahann Carroll, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

The collection, which includes 70,000 paper documents and 30,000 digital photographs, will be housed in the Library's Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va.

► MORE: loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-045.html

**FROM BOOKS TO BALL CAPS,** the Library of Congress Shop features items inspired by the Library's unique collections.



"I Have a Dream"

Price: \$3

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Martin Luther King Jr.'s inspirational

speech at the 1963 March on Washington

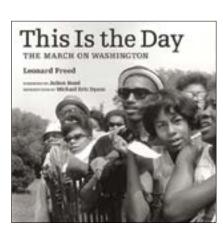
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A photograph by Carol M. Highsmith of cherry blossom season in Washington, D.C. graces the cover of this iPhone case.

Phone Case

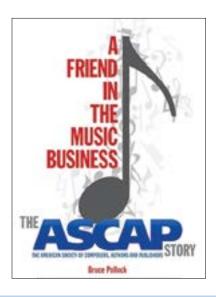
4/48



#### "This is the Day: The March on Washington"

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Photographer Leonard Freed's photo essay documents the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Aug. 28, 1963.



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Price: \$29.99 (hardcover, 320 pages)

In 1914, a group of the nation's most distinguished and popular songwriters formed an organization to protect their creative rights.



### **Library Baseball Cap** Product # 21305001

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#### MORE INFORMATION

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### **CELEBRATING CIVIL RIGHTS**

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE LIBRARY MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WITH A NEW EXHIBITION.

**PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORTERS** make it possible for the Library of Congress to exhibit its collections to a broad audience.

Opening June 19, a year-long Library exhibition, "The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom," is made possible by two supporters with deep connections to the events and people that shaped the civil rights movement in America—Newman's Own Foundation and HISTORY®. The exhibition will feature some of the most important materials in the Library's collection documenting the events that led to the passage of this historic legislation and its legacy. (See story on page 10.)

When Robert H. Forrester, president of Newman's Own Foundation, learned about the Library's plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with an exhibition, he saw a project with the potential for the type of social impact that has characterized the company's charitable giving.

"By funding this exhibition, we proudly continue Paul Newman's commitment to the empowerment of individuals," said Forrester.

"We hope that the strength of the human spirit as reflected in this exhibit will inform people's understanding of the present and provide inspiration to help create a better world for tomorrow."

Paul Newman (1925-2008) was dedicated to helping make the world a better place. His philanthropic legacy includes a natural foods company that gives away all after-tax profits to charity. During his lifetime he used his influence to advance many social causes, including an end to racial injustice.

The Connecticut-based Newman's Own Foundation will build on one of the exhibition's themes—empowering change—to inspire the community of Hartford, Conn., and other areas in the state to use the story of the Civil Rights Act to encourage civic involvement.

Two videos, which will complement the exhibition, will be made possible by HISTORY, the basic cable and satellite channel. HISTORY will also make available Civil Rights Act-related primary resources from the Library for teachers, along with lesson plans. These materials will be the subject of the Library 2014 Summer Teachers Institute focusing on using the Library's civil rights collections in the K-12 classroom.

"We are honored to join with the Library of Congress in commemorating the Civil Rights Act, 50 years after its passage," said Nancy Dubuc, president and CEO of A+E Networks. "HISTORY's multimedia production presents the exhibition's themes dynamically, to engage today's educators as well as the general public."

#### MORE INFORMATION

Library of Congress Development Office 202.707-2777

loc.gov/philanthropy

View the exhibition online loc.gov/exhibits/

**Civil Rights Act resources for teachers** history.com/classroom

Paul Newman and Sammy Davis Jr. at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Aug. 28, 1963. Roosevelt H. Carter, Prints and Photographs Division

May/June 2014 | Loc.gov/lcm



### U.S. REP. GREGG HARPER (R-MISS.) DISCUSSES WHY HE IS PROUD TO CHAIR THE HISTORIC JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

One of the greatest joys of my service in Congress is working with the gifted and culturally-experienced professionals at the U.S. Library of Congress. The Library is an essential resource to assist Congress in performing its constitutional duties. This educational institution also benefits all citizens by preserving our country's rich heritage and promoting American ingenuity.

I am honored and privileged to serve as chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library in the 113th Congress. The Joint Committee on the Library—the longest standing joint committee of the Congress—is devoted to the affairs and administration of the Library of Congress. Our committee also manages the congressional art collection and the U.S. Botanic Garden.

As chairman, I have the exceptional opportunity of intimate exposure to the various educational resources and countless cultural programs that the Library offers. From its informative exhibits to its Gershwin Prize for Popular Song awardees, I am constantly amazed by the caliber of collections and entertainers that our nation's library celebrates. I could simply get lost in the Library's presidential collections, which include the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. And it goes without saying that my wife, Sidney, and I are present at as many of the concert series presented by the Library as possible. After all, the Coolidge Auditorium is one of the most remarkable performing arts venues in the country.

As a lawmaker, the policy support provided by the Congressional Research Service helps me gain a more thorough understanding of the legislative challenges facing America. The new Congress.gov website gives my constituents unprecedented access to the policymaking process. And as an encourager of today's young people, the Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program enables a select group of impressive college students from across the country to work on a wide range of research projects as they train to become the next generation of leaders for our country, and perhaps some will even become future professionals at the Library of Congress.

On a personal note, I have been tremendously inspired by Dr. James Billington's focus on literacy promotion. His leadership has placed an emphasis on reading literacy at the National Book Festival, historical literacy through the Civil War and March on Washington exhibits and science literacy with the opening of Carl Sagan's papers. I recently heard the great writer, David McCullough, refer to the Library of Congress as the greatest library in the history of the world and declared Dr. Billington the greatest Librarian in its history. I could not agree more.

This enthusiasm will continue in June with the launch of the Library's Civil Rights Act exhibition. As Americans, we understand that our nation was built on the idea that all citizens shall have the right to be free. This ennobling exhibit will honor heroes who helped our country overcome extraordinary challenges to those very freedoms.

The Library of Congress contains the largest and most wide-ranging collection of human knowledge in the world, and this historic institution was built and is maintained through the support of the Congress. The last word truly belongs to you – the inquisitive students of life and seekers of knowledge who preserve and make available the national treasures housed in the multitude of collections within our very own Library of Congress.

Rep. Gregg Harper (R-Miss.) is currently serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives.







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## exhibitions AT THE LIBRARY

The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A **Long Struggle for** Freedom

June 19, 2014-June 20, 2015

**ASCAP: One Hundred** Years and Beyond

February 13-July 26, 2014

A Thousand Years of the Persian Book

March 27-September 20, 2014

O MORE INFORMATION: loc.gov/exhibits