



Press Release

For Immediate Release
January 23, 2015

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“THE WHOLE WORLD SAW YOUR PICTURES”: SPIDER MARTIN & THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN OPENING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY ON FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Montgomery, AL 1/23/15 – In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) will debut a new, temporary exhibit in its Milo B. Howard Auditorium on February 2, 2015. *“The Whole World Saw Your Pictures”*: *Spider Martin and the 1965 Voting Rights Campaign* is an exhibit of iconic photographs of the Selma-to-Montgomery March taken by Spider Martin in March of 1965. These images were seen around the world, drawing attention to the struggle for civil rights in Alabama and across the South. Public outcry over these stirring images helped to increase momentum towards the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In early 1965, photographer and Alabama native Spider Martin was dispatched by the *Birmingham News* to cover the events underway in Selma. Over the next few months, Martin chronicled the day-to-day events of the Selma campaign, from church rallies and strategy sessions to the marches themselves. Through his lens he captured the dramatic events of the “Bloody Sunday” march attempt on March 7, 1965, the second march attempt, and finally the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery ending at the State Capitol on March 25, 1965.

“These images captured by Spider Martin are among the most powerful in our historical consciousness,” said ADAH director Steve Murray. “They helped prompt the country to action in 1965, and today they offer a connection to one of the great turning points in Alabama and American history.”

The exhibit will be on display through September 25, 2015. The ADAH expresses its appreciation to the Martin family for their permission to exhibit these photographs.

Located in downtown Montgomery across the street from the State Capitol, the ADAH serves as the state’s official government records repository, as a special collections library and research facility, and as the home of the Museum of Alabama. The ADAH and the Museum of Alabama are open Monday – Saturday, 8:30-4:30. Admission is always free. Visit www.archives.alabama.gov and www.museum.alabama.gov to learn more. Find the ADAH on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @AlabamaArchives.

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