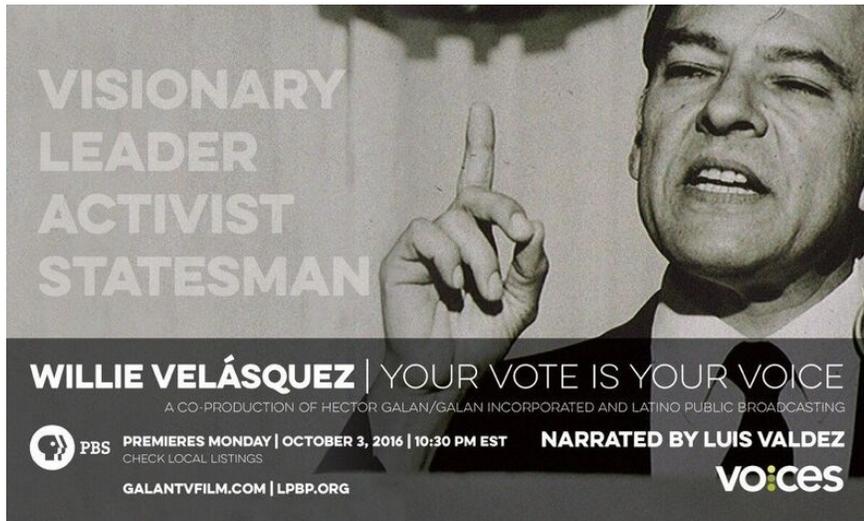


October 2016

Film Debut and Panel Discussion of *Willie Velásquez: Your Vote is Your Voice*

On **Monday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Kansas City Public Television, will debut a new documentary *Willie Velásquez: Your Vote is Your Voice*. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Throughout American history, Latinos were often kept from the ballot box through the use of poll taxes, gerrymandering, and outright intimidation. With his rallying cry of “su voto es su voz,” (your vote is your voice), Willie Velásquez started a grassroots movement in the 1970s that resulted in the registration of millions



of Latino voters and paved the way for the growing power of the Latino vote. *Willie Velásquez: Your Vote is Your Voice* chronicles Willie’s journey from radical student activist to respected statesman, and examines the history of the Latino vote as well as contemporary issues facing Latinos today, including the 2016 presidential election. *This program is presented in partnership with Kansas City Public Television; Latino Public Broadcasting; Hispanic Coalition/Chamber of Commerce; Kansas City Hispanic Business Political Action Committee; and the Young Latino Professionals.*

Reservations are requested for this **free film** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000.



Inside This Issue

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR	2
BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT	3
AUTHOR DR. LARRY BLOMSTEDT	3
HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS	4-6

Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 West Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

- OCTOBER 3 - 6:30 P.M.
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
*WILLIE VALASQUESZ:
YOUR VOTE IS YOUR
VOICE*
- OCTOBER 11 - 6:30 P.M.
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT
- OCTOBER 26 AND 27 -
ALL DAY: *VIRTUAL
GENEALOGY FAIR*
- OCTOBER 27 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR LECTURE:
*TRUMAN, CONGRESS,
AND KOREA: THE
POLITICS OF AMERICA'S
FIRST UNDECLARED WAR*
BY DR. LARRY BLOMSTEDT

National Archives to Offer Virtual Genealogy Fair

On **October 26 and 27, 2016** (Wednesday & Thursday), the National Archives is hosting a two-day, virtual Genealogy Fair via webcast. Viewers have the opportunity to participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event on YouTube. All of the session videos and handouts will be available from this web page free of charge. You can watch the sessions and download the materials at your convenience. Registration is not required. Frequent updates will be posted to [this page](#).

October 26 Session Schedule - Day 1

(Note: the times listed below are Eastern Time)

10:00 a.m. - Welcoming Remarks by Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero

10:05 a.m. - *Introduction to Genealogy at the National Archives* by Claire Kluskens

11:00 a.m. - *The Best National Archives Records Genealogists Aren't Using* by Lori Cox-Paul

12:00 p.m. - *National Archives Innovative Online Resources and Tools to Help with Your Genealogical Research* by Sarah Swanson and Kelly Osborn

1:00 p.m. - *You too can be a Citizen Archivist! Getting the most out of the National Archives Catalog* by Suzanne Isaacs and Meredith Doviak

2:00 p.m. - *Department of State Records for Genealogical Research* by David Pfeiffer

3:00 p.m. - *American Battle Monuments Commission* by Ryan Bass

October 27 Session Schedule - Day 2

(Note: the times listed below are Eastern Time)

10:00 a.m. - *Nonpopulation Census: Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Social Statistics* by Claire Kluskens

11:00 a.m. - *The Morning After: Changes as Reflected in Morning Reports* by Theresa Fitzgerald

12:00 p.m. - *The Iwo Jima Flag Raisers: Chaos, Controversy and World War II Marine Corps Personnel Records* by Bryan K. McGraw

1:00 p.m. - *What's New in the Lou: A Look at the Latest Accessions at the National Archives at St. Louis* by David Hardin

2:00 p.m. - *The Faces of the National Park Service* by Cara L. Moore

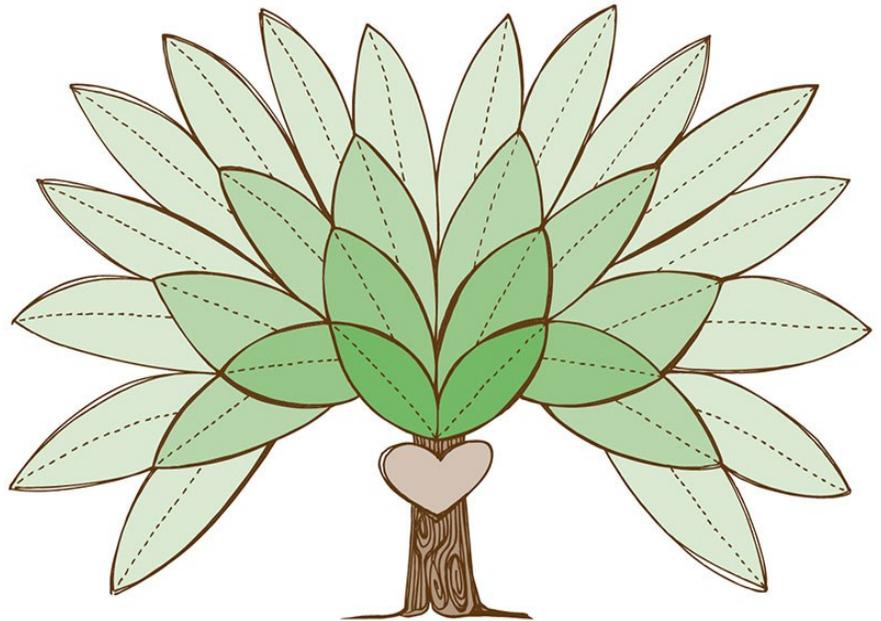
3:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks by Acting Executive for Research Services Ann Cummings

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES



.....
October 26 & 27, 2016
.....

Participate during live online broadcasts
Information, Videos, & Handouts:
www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair



Barriers to the Ballot Film Screening and Panel Discussion

On **Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host a film screening of *The Black Belt* and panel discussion titled, **Barriers to the Ballot**. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.



Directed by **Margaret Brown**, *The Black Belt* is a new documentary film short that illustrates the challenges residents face in one state around obtaining identification. In 2015, Alabama closed 31 Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) locations in counties with predominately black residents due to budget cuts, forcing residents to obtain voter ID cards by going to mobile DMV units. The film focuses on the mobile units, which are farcical at best, and how residents cope with finding a viable alternative for obtaining identification.

Following the film, a group of local activists and scholars will discuss the ongoing challenges around current attempts to change voter identification laws. Moderated by **Dr. Delia**

Gillis of the University of Central Missouri, panelists include **Dolores Furtado**, League of Women Voters; **Anita Russell**, NAACP-KC chapter; and **Quinton Lucas**, University of Kansas. *This program is presented in partnership with the American Association of University Women-KC Branch; League of Women Voters; and the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.*

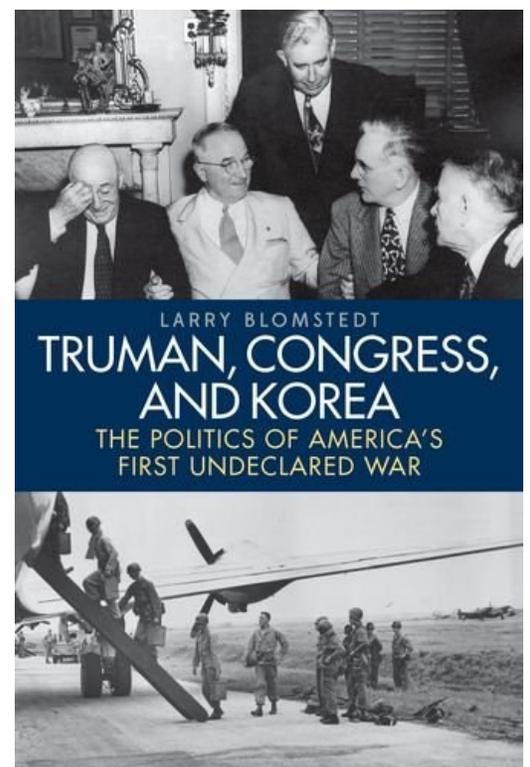
Reservations are requested for this **free program** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Dr. Larry Blomstedt to Discuss *Truman, Congress, and Korea: The Politics of America's First Undeclared War*

On **Thursday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host **Dr. Larry Blomstedt** for a discussion of his book *Truman, Congress, and Korea: The Politics of America's First Undeclared War*. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Three days after North Korean premier Kim Il Sung launched a massive military invasion of South Korea on June 24, 1950, President Harry S. Truman responded, dispatching air and naval support to South Korea. Initially, Congress cheered his swift action; but, when China entered the war to aid North Korea, the president and many legislators became concerned that the conflict would escalate into another world war, and the United States agreed to a truce in 1953. The lack of a decisive victory caused the Korean War to quickly recede from public attention. In *Truman, Congress, and Korea*, Blomstedt provides the first in-depth domestic political history of the conflict, from the initial military mobilization, to Congress's failed attempts to broker a cease-fire, to the political fallout in the 1952 election. During the war, President Truman faced challenges from both Democratic and Republican legislators, whose initial support quickly collapsed into bitter and often public infighting. Blomstedt explores the changes wrought during this critical period and the ways in which the war influenced U.S. international relations and military interventions during the Cold War and beyond. *This program is presented in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and the Truman Center at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.*

Copies of Blomstedt's book will be available for purchase and signing. Reservations are requested for this **free program** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

The Mercury Space Capsule Patent

During a speech in the spring of 1957, James S. McDonnell was asked to speculate on the future of manned space flight. Few were as qualified as McDonnell to do so. He had an advanced degree in Aeronautical Engineering from

MIT. He was an aviation pioneer and as founder of the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation (later McDonnell Douglas), a titan of the aviation industry. He believed the timetable for putting a man in space would result in a successful launch sometime between 1990 and 2005 and would cost around \$1 billion (\$116.4 billion today). To McDonnell, the technological advances necessary for manned flight were legion.

Five months later, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I into space and everything changed. Manned space flight was not four or five decades away. It was four years away.

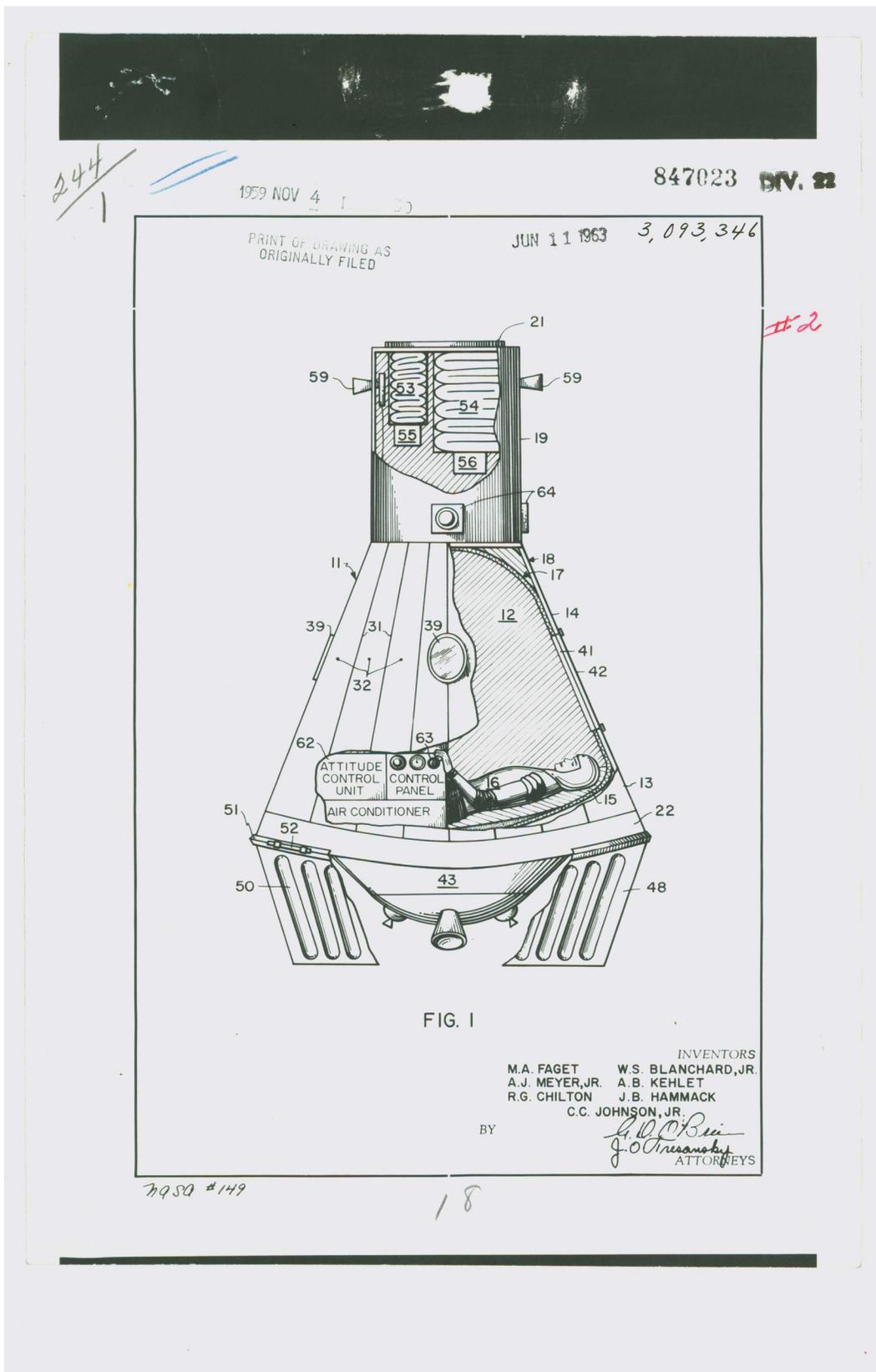
The race to be the first nation to put a human in space was on. Driven by the desire to beat the Soviet Union there, Project Mercury was born. It was approved on October 7, 1958, and announced to the public in December of that year.

The Space Race was fueled by the Cold War. The nuclear arms race led to great advances in rocket technology designed to be used in ballistic missiles. The same technology was capable of putting a human into space by using rocket powered boosters.

In 1958, 35 engineers were assembled, led by Maxime Faget to design what would become the Mercury spacecraft.

On November 4, 1959, the group filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office a patent of the capsule they had designed.

(Continued on next page.)



Above: Patent drawing for the Mercury capsule submitted in 1959. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, Patent Case Files 1836-1993. Patent number 3,093,346, Patent name: Space Capsule, National Archives Identifier 302050.

(Continued from page 4.)

The patent for the Mercury Space Capsule shows the specifications for the capsule and a diagram for the stages needed to reach space and return safely to earth. The capsule was meant for short term flight only. It carried enough food, water, and oxygen for only one day.

The patent describes the craft as "an initial step in determining man's ability to adapt to and perform during space travel. A study of the effects of a space environment upon a human occupant of a capsule placed into a semi-permanent orbit about the Earth has been proposed."

In addition, "A further object... is to provide a space vehicle which provides protection for its occupant from the deleterious effects of large pressure differentials, high temperatures, micrometeorite collisions, high level acoustical noise, and severe inertial and impact loads."

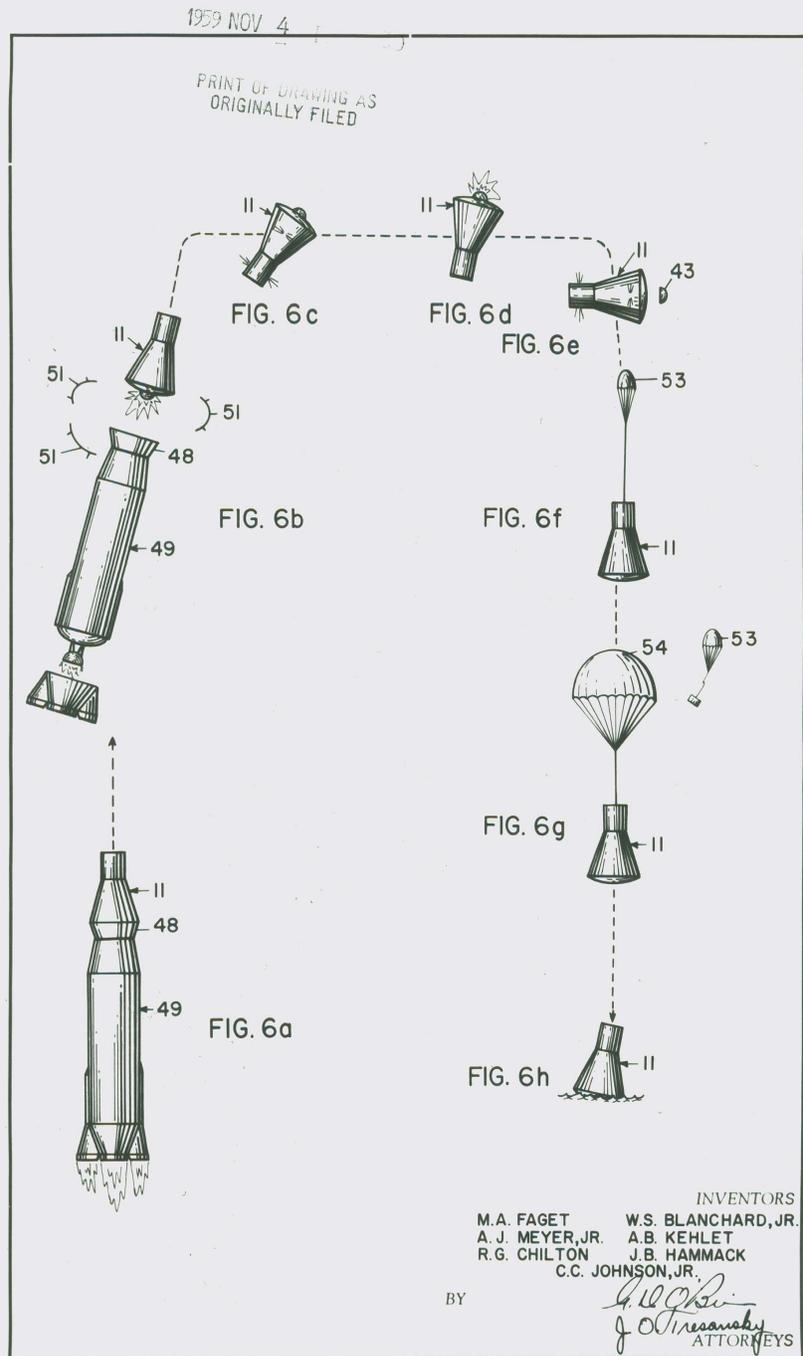
The original design of the capsule did not include windows, opting instead for small portholes. The astronauts voiced their displeasure with this, stating that a window was needed, "not only for the view, but also for orientation."

Another design facet the astronauts fought for and won was manual control. Originally, the capsule was designed to be controlled only from the ground at the Manned Flight Space Network. The original plan had prompted Chuck Yeager to say the Mercury astronauts were nothing more than "Spam in a can."

(Continued on next page.)



847023



79459 #149

21

Above: Detailed aspects of the Mercury Capsule patent. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, Patent Case Files 1836-1993. Patent number 3,093,346, Patent name: Space Capsule, National Archives Identifier

(Continued from page 5.)

The decision to allow manual control proved to be a critical one. During Astronaut Gordon Cooper's flight in 1963, manual control was needed to return him safely to Earth.

Once the Mercury spacecraft was designed, the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation won the bid to build 20 of them. Six were used in manned flight, nine were used in unmanned flights, and five never flew. James McDonnell may not have seen the Space Race coming, but his company played a critical role in facilitating it.

The first manned flight took place in May 1961 with Alan Shepard on board. The sixth and final one in May 1963 with Gordon Cooper.

The space capsule patent captures a moment in history full of energy, innovation and achievement. A time when things that are now accepted as fact were merely ideas and theories. It proved that human beings could travel into space, survive there and return to Earth safely. For more information about Patent and Trademark records email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or view the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Amending America and the National Conversations Series Continues in October

In celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights in 2016, the National Archives presents a national initiative: Amending America. Written in 1789 and ratified on December 15, 1791, the original Bill of Rights, on permanent display in the National Archives Rotunda in Washington D.C., is still closely connected to the biggest issues of today - and to each of our citizens. Through a series of exhibitions, programs, online resources, and more, Amending



America explores how we continue to perfect our union through the lens of our historic records. In celebration of this 225th anniversary, the National Archives is hosting a series of conversations across the country to explore the continuing and often complicated issues of rights of our modern era.

This series continues **Friday, October 21**, at the National Archives at New York in downtown (Manhattan) New York City, with a focus on *Women's Rights and Gender Equality*. A series of panelists will discuss women's rights, gender equality and advocacy, and action. The morning keynote conversation **Soledad O'Brien** and **Anna Eleanor Roosevelt** will explore the current state of women's rights and gender equality in the United States. The public is invited to attend this **free program** in-person or via live streaming through the web. For more information about the New York City event, visit www.archives.gov/nyc/press/2016/2016-conversation-on-women.html.



HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives.