



Guide to the S. M. Wright Papers

Collection Overview

Identifier	2017.69
Creator	Wright, Sylvester Marilyn, 1927-1994
Title	S. M. Wright papers
Dates	1964-2006
Extent	3 folders
Language	The materials are in English.
Repository	Dallas Historical Society
Source	Gift of Debra Wright, 2017.

Abstract

The S. M. Wright papers are made up of correspondence and photographs relating to Wright, his career at the People's Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, TX, and his civil rights activism. The collection includes photographs of Wright with friends and family, as well as at professional engagements. Additionally, the collection contains correspondence with the White House.

Biographical Note

Sylvester Marilyn Wright was born in Burleson County, Texas in 1927. He grew up in the Bon Ton neighborhood in Dallas and attended Lincoln High School. Wright received bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in education from Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. He also briefly served in the U.S. Army.

In 1957, Wright became a pastor at the People's Missionary Baptist Church in South Dallas where he served for thirty-seven years. He was involved in organizing Black leadership in Dallas and was dedicated to bridging the racial divide. Wright served as president of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance of Metropolitan Dallas for over thirty years and was actively involved with the South Dallas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Wright was integral in the desegregation of the Dallas Independent School District. In 1968, after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Wright hosted a tribute service in his honor.

Wright died of cancer on November 3, 1994.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of materials pertaining to the career and personal life of Rev. Dr. S. M. Wright. It spans from 1964-2006, with the bulk of the materials documenting Wright's involvement with local associations and religious groups. Wright was an active member of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance (IMA) of Metropolitan Dallas, the NAACP of South Dallas, and the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America. Wright's career in the church began in 1957 and continued through the 1990s.

The collection contains correspondence, pamphlets, and photographs. The photographs in this collection are mainly of Wright at various social and political events.

Subjects

People

Wright, Sylvester Marilyn, 1927-1994

Topics

Civil rights movement--United States

Social Justice--United States

20th Century (1900-1999), United States--Texas

African Americans--Civil rights--History

African American families--Texas--Dallas--History

Organizations

Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

People's Missionary Baptist Church

Places

Dallas, Texas--History

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series:

Series I. Correspondence and Ephemera, 1964-2006

Series II. Photographs, undated

Access Restrictions

Open for research by appointment only.

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Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as: [Identification of Item], S. M. Wright papers, 2017.69, Dallas Historical Society.

Container List

Series I: Correspondence and Ephemera, 1964-2006

This series contains typed correspondence received by Wright as well as various printed materials. Correspondence includes letters from U.S. Presidents and the printed material includes pamphlets, brochures, and programs from events that Wright was associated with during his lifetime.

Box 1, Folder 1: Correspondence and ephemera, 1964-2006

Series II: Photographs, undated

This series contains individual photographs of S. M. Wright at various social and political events. There are also photos of other prominent political and religious leaders. Two photographs in this collection are oversized.

Box 1, Folder 2: Miscellaneous photographs, undated

Box 1, Folder 3: Miscellaneous photographs, undated