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“African American Military Portraits from the American Civil War: Selected Images from the Library of Congress Collections” on View Jan. 20 – April 4, at Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St.

***Exhibition Commemorates 150TH
Anniversary of American Civil War with
photos, documents and artifacts***

LOS ANGELES (January 5, 2015) - The mostly forgotten role of African-American soldiers and sailors in the American Civil War is revealed and celebrated in the exhibition “African American Military Portraits from The American Civil War: Selected Images from The Library of Congress Collections,” on view January 20 - April 4, 2015, at the Central Library, Getty Gallery, 630 W. Fifth St., downtown.



The exhibit, which is from the California African American Museum (CAAM), provides a compelling portrait of the 180,000 African American soldiers and commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

“When most people think of the Civil War they just think of slaves and they don't realize a lot of the black soldiers were volunteers from the north and were free,” said Ed Garcia, CAAM exhibition curator. “I wanted to show the pictures and tell the stories of the black soldiers who have been completely forgotten.”

During the Civil War, black soldiers were paid \$10 a month for their service, while
(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

white soldiers received \$13 a month. Some of African American soldiers' duties were non-combative, which included feeding and caring for white officers' horses, and others served in the infantry and artillery.

"This exhibition tells the timeless stories of African American soldiers and sailors of the Union who fought against the Confederates for the freedom of those still enslaved," said Garcia. "In addition, they are visual reminders of the pride, determination, and sense of destiny that filled these men with a profound resolve, as they sought a rightful place in the fabric of this nation for themselves and an entire people."

The exhibits features large-format images reproduced from original antique photographs, and selected from the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs and the Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs, both of which are housed at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Addition images are from The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University.

The portraits in the exhibition are supplemented with biographical research, original period documents, artifacts, and historically accurate reconstructions from research conducted by Garcia.

The exhibition is free and open during regular library hours. For more information visit www.lapl.org.

The California African American Museum (CAAM) is a state agency charged with researching, collecting, preserving and interpreting for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Collaboratively operating in partnership with its 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum, CAAM houses a permanent collection of over 4,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, and a publicly accessible Research Library containing more than 20,000 volumes.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, more than six million books, and state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.