

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
P.O. Box 300100  
624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil  
334-353-4726

Release Date: Immediately

BOOK TALK AND SIGNING BY ETHEL HALL  
*MY JOURNEY: A MEMOIR OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
TO PRESIDE OVER THE ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION*  
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, January 27** as **Ethel Hall** presents ***My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American to Preside Over the Alabama Board of Education***. This informative talk will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

In her memoir, Dr. Hall recounts the little “journeys” throughout her life that prepared her to become the first African American woman elected to the Alabama State Board of Education and its longest serving member. Her experiences with racial tension, discrimination, and poverty are interspersed with portraits of the family and love which transformed her from a farmer’s daughter—determined to achieve the higher education others thought to be impossible—to a dedicated mother and educator, and even further to a statewide political leader.

During her more than two decades of service to the Alabama State Board of Education, Dr. Hall has been a quiet force campaigning for improved education standards. She's also been a generous community leader, serving on the boards of more than a dozen state and local organizations, including the Alabama Department of Archives and History Foundation, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and National Conference of Community and Justice.

Copies of ***My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American to Preside Over the Alabama Board of Education*** will be available for purchase NewSouth Books. The author will be available to sign books after the program.

The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)