

TAREA HALL PITTMAN



TAREA HALL PITTMAN WAS A PIONEERING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, SOCIAL WORKER, AND RADIO PERSONALITY WHOSE LIFE WAS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE ON THE WEST COAST. BORN IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, TO WILLIAM AND SUSIE HALL, SHE GREW UP WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION, SERVICE, AND EQUALITY.

IN THE 1930S, PITTMAN EMERGED AS A LEADER IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. SHE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS (1936-1938), WORKING TO UPLIFT BLACK WOMEN AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL LEADERSHIP. SHE ALSO HELPED ORGANIZE WEST COAST BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, BRINGING NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS EFFORTS TO CALIFORNIA AND SURROUNDING STATES.

PITTMAN WAS A POWERFUL VOICE IN MEDIA, HOSTING THE RADIO PROGRAM "NEGROES IN THE NEWS" ON KDIA IN OAKLAND FOR OVER 45 YEARS. THROUGH THIS PLATFORM, SHE HIGHLIGHTED AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSED CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES, AND INFORMED THE COMMUNITY ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MATTERS AT A TIME WHEN BLACK VOICES WERE OFTEN EXCLUDED FROM MAINSTREAM MEDIA.

HER WORK WITH THE NAACP WAS EXTENSIVE. SHE SERVED AS AN OFFICER OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WEST COAST REGION, AND REGIONAL ACTING SECRETARY. PITTMAN ORGANIZED PROTESTS DURING WORLD WAR II TO DEMAND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY, FOUGHT TO END SEGREGATION IN THE OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT IN 1952, AND LOBBIED FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT LAWS ACROSS CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, ALASKA, AND NEVADA.