

## Martha's Room:

### Honoring a Life of Service and Commitment

By Sarah D. Watkins,

Executive Director

Library of Michigan Foundation

The Library of Michigan is a monument to Michigan's commitment to libraries. However, within this beautiful ten-year old facility there remains one room that is incomplete. This room was selected to create a special place to hold, maintain and showcase Michigan's rare and special books, maps and historical documents. It will salute and honor Michigan's rare and special first woman lieutenant governor, Martha Wright Griffiths.

Griffiths fought for and won important victories for equal rights for women and minorities. During her illustrious and courageous career, Martha Griffiths was a fighter, a persevering and relentless advocate for equal rights. She worked for changes in Social Security and pension fund benefits to help widows. She worked for education and people with disabilities. She was a Michigan legislator, a Congresswoman, a judge, a practicing attorney, and Michigan's first woman lieutenant governor.

The Michigan Rare Book Room will honor Griffiths and recognize her significant service to humankind, her distinguished political career, and her life-long commitment to education. Martha's Room must be completed. The cost of the project is \$1,500,000. To date we have raised \$800,000 in support of this important project to commemorate the work of this great woman. We need your assistance.

Martha Griffiths symbolizes the spirit of persistence and resolve that we call upon you to demonstrate through your support to complete Martha's Room. If you would like to make a gift toward completion of the Michigan Rare Book Room, please send your check, payable to the Library of Michigan Foundation, to the address below or contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Sarah Watkins, at (517) 373-4470 for additional information on giving opportunities:

Library of Michigan Foundation

717 W. Allegan Street

P. O. Box 30159

Lansing, MI 48909

*We need your help in making Martha's Room a reality.*



## Martha W. Griffiths Facts

First woman elected Lieutenant Governor of Michigan (2 terms)

Only woman to serve in the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative Branches of government

First woman elected as Recorder's Court Judge

First female Representative member of Ways and Means Committee

First female Representative member, Joint Economic Committee of Congress

Congressional Accomplishments:

Martha Griffiths had enormous impact on enhancing social and economic justice for all citizens. Her name is synonymous with the Equal Rights Amendment, which she sponsored and successfully guided through Congress. She made the argument that added "sex" to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex. The Civil Rights Act assures women in the work force equal pay, equal employment opportunity, and the chance for a better life.

### **The Need for The Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room**

Michigan materials of a rare, unusual, or unique character are currently held in the Library of Michigan Collection. These items require appropriate conservation and preservation.

Many items that should be stored in a special facility (rare book room) are on open stacks.

Although space has been identified in the Library of Michigan, no suitable facility exists to provide controlled access and proper protection for rare and valuable items.

Without a proper facility to maintain (preserve and conserve) special and rare materials the collection cannot grow.

Ease of access for patrons is imperative.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is seeking funding to provide a Michigan Rare Book Room in honor of Martha W. Griffiths to honor and celebrate her distinguished career and life-long commitment to libraries.