

Memorials set for Amelia Boykin Robinson

Memorial services will be conducted in Selma and Tuskegee for Mrs. Amelia Platt Boynton Robinson, the Civil Rights icon who resided in Tuskegee.

Mrs. Robinson was hospitalized when she celebrated her 104th birthday on Aug. 18. She died Wednesday, August 26 at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery after suffering a stroke several weeks earlier.

She was the second oldest living graduate of Tuskegee University where she earned her degree in 1927 at what was then Tuskegee Institute.

She and her former schoolmate at Tuskegee, S.W. "Bill" Boynton, worked together as county agents for the United States Department of Agriculture in Selma, Dallas County, and were later married.

They became known as "Mr. and Mrs. Civil Rights" for their work to uplift blacks and poor people in the area. Mrs. Robinson was the first woman in the country to serve as a county agent with the USDA. She and Bill had one son, Bruce Carver Boynton, an attorney, whose godfather was Dr. George Washington Carver.

The Boynton's were the first blacks in Alabama to own an insurance company, as well as a real-estate and employment agency.

She is best known as the woman in the iconic photo of the "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march. She was gassed and brutally beaten by law enforcement agents at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on March 7, 1965. During the 50th anniversary of the march, she returned and was personally escorted across the bridge by President Barack Obama.

Boynton Robinson's battle for justice and civil rights in Alabama began in the 1930s when she fought for voting rights and property ownership for African-Americans in the poorest rural areas of Alabama, where she worked as a home demonstration agent. She was also the first black woman in Alabama to run for a seat in Congress and the first female of any race to run for this seat on the Democratic ticket.

In January, Boynton Robinson attended the State of the Union address as a special guest of Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Alabama, who said Boynton Robinson's 1964 run for Congress paved the way for her as Alabama's first elected black congresswoman. Boynton was the first black woman to run for Congress in the state and the first Alabama woman to run as a Democrat, according to the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, a memorial service for Mrs. Robinson will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Selma after a horse drawn hearse leaves Walker's Mortuary. The body will lay in state beginning at 10 a.m.

Then on Sunday, Sept. 6, a memorial service will be held in Mrs. Robinson's hometown of Tuskegee. The service will be at the Tuskegee University Chapel, with the body lying-in-state, will begin at 10 a.m. The actual memorial service will be from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, a final homecoming celebration hour will be celebrated at the Edmund Pettus Bridge with the singing of spirituals beginning at 1 p.m.



Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson and Julia Gaillard Rose, right, were the oldest graduates of Tuskegee University when this picture was made at TU's Founder's Day Reunion in July. Ms. Rose is 106 and Mrs. Robinson was 104 when she died on Aug. 26.



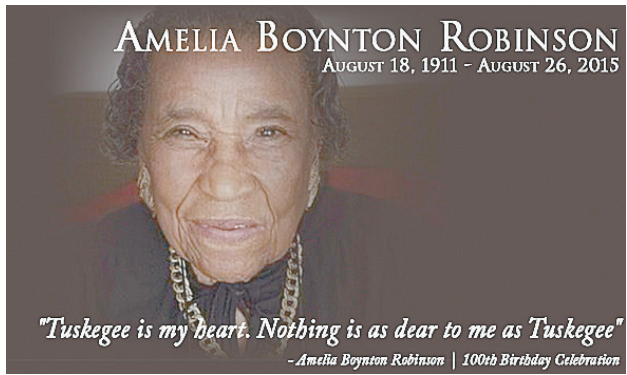
Full Circle Amelia Boynton Robinson, seated, with Congresswoman Terri Sewell of Selma and Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. Lewis and Mrs. Robinson were part of the Bloody Sunday march in 1965 and Sewell is the first black female to serve in Congress in Alabama., Robinson was the first black female to run for Congress in Alabama.



Amelia Boynton Robinson, "A queen of the Civil Rights."



The City of Tuskegee is flying flags at half staff in honor of Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson.



In honor of Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, Tuskegee University used this picture on its website.



Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, in wheelchair in blue outfit, holds President Barack Obama's hand on the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the 50th Anniversary of the bridge crossing.



Amelia Boynton Robinson was left for dead on Bloody Sunday, in March of March 1965 as she is pulled away from the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

Local NAACP members attend memorial for Bond



Photos courtesy of Montgomery Advertiser

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) honored the life of Horace Julian Bond on Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Civil Rights Memorial Fountain in Montgomery. Attending officers from the Tuskegee-Macon County Branch of NAACP included: Barbara A. Howard, President; Antoinette Frederick, Secretary; **above**, and Dr. Elaine C. Harrington, Program Coordinator, **below**. By depositing petals into the fountain, each officer celebrated Bond's legacy, especially as Chairman Emeritus of the NAACP National Board of Directors.



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