



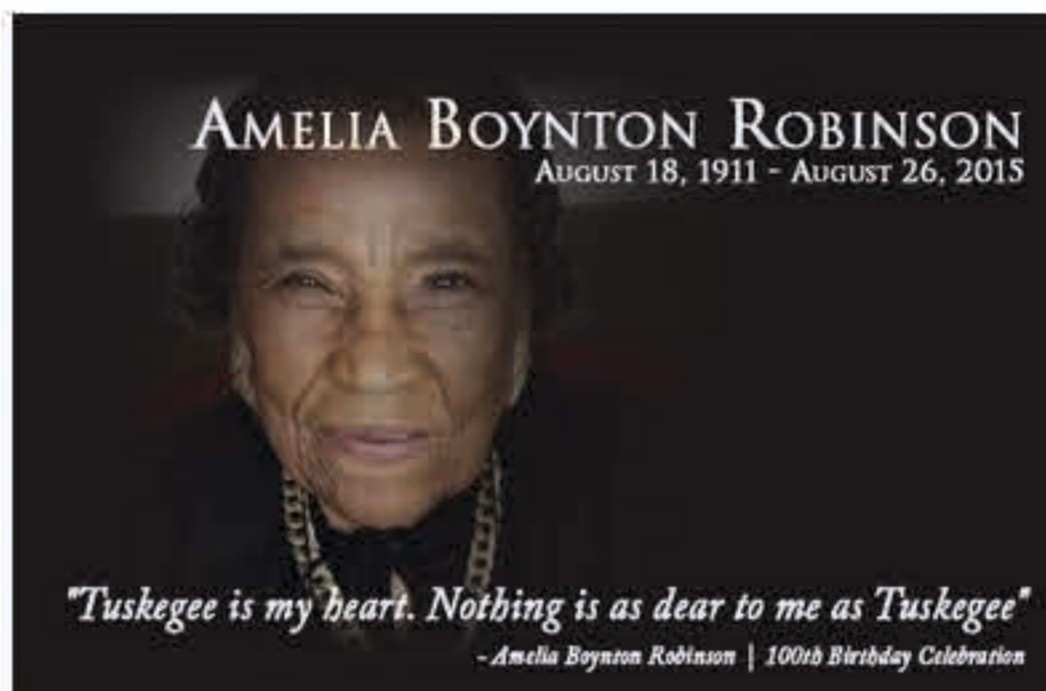
## Civil Rights matriarch and alumna, Amelia Boynton Robinson dies

8/26/2015



TUSKEGEE, Ala. (August 26, 2015) — One of Tuskegee University's oldest and most beloved alumni has died. She was 104. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson was a Civil Rights pioneer and longtime activist for human rights. 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 personally escorted across the bridge by President Barack Obama.

Robinson, Class of 1927, was a familiar and inspiring face in the university community. She returned often for campus events and in 2011, Robinson was acknowledged for her continuous service and dedication by the university when she was given the Booker T. Washington Legacy Award. Her last appearance on campus was in May, where she was a special guest for the Spring Commencement Exercises.



"Tuskegee University is saddened by the passing of Civil Rights trailblazer Amelia Boynton Robinson, affectionately known as "Queen Mother". Tuskegee means warrior and indeed, Dr. Robinson was a warrior in both words and works in her quest for justice and equality. Our deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with her family during this time," said Tuskegee University president, Dr. Brian L. Johnson.

She was generous with her time during her campus visits and often spoke to others about the love she carried for her alma mater. During an awards event in 2012, Robinson reminisced about her early days as a student at Tuskegee and her reason for choosing the university over others. Rather than fall into her sister's footsteps at another school, Robinson said she was committed to creating her own reputation and making her mark on the world.

"Thank God for Tuskegee. Thank God for a God who's blessed me," she said.

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 2013, she donated her personal memorabilia collection to the Tuskegee University Archives. The archives plans to house a permanent display of the Amelia Boynton Robinson Collection that consists of approximately 3,000 images including several individual pictures and photo albums. Also, the donation includes awards and documents that poignantly highlight Robinson's later activities as a civil rights advocate. An accomplished author and speaker, Robinson also donated an extensive library of books and speeches that will give researchers insight into a complicated period in America's history.

"Dr. Robinson will be sorely missed. She was so gracious and always had time to sit and talk with us," said university archivist Dana Chandler. "The materials will prove invaluable to researchers and visitors in the future."

No funeral arrangements have been made public at this time.

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