

1 SJR5  
2 171757-1  
3 By Senator Sanders  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 10-SEP-15

171757-1:n:09/08/2015:TH/th LRS2015-2878

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. AMELIA PLATTS BOYNTON  
ROBINSON.

WHEREAS, we note the death of Mrs. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson with deep sadness and regret; her invaluable life of 110 years is commended and celebrated with tremendous thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, known to most as Mrs. Boynton, she was a legendary civil rights activist who earned the moniker Mother Amelia Boynton as she was the mother of the modern day Voting Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, she and her first husband, Samuel Boynton, registered and voted in Selma, Alabama, during the early 1930s; the couple risked their lives to help other African Americans register to vote and purchase land; and

WHEREAS, among her many victories for the Civil Rights Movement, Mother Boynton bravely invited the first SNCC organizers in Selma to stay at her home and worked with them, held meeting for the Courageous Eight, of which she was a key

1 member, in her home in spite of a restrictive court order;  
2 risked jail for contempt of court, wrote a letter inviting Dr.  
3 Martin Luther King, Jr., to Selma in 1963, joined other  
4 Courageous Eight members in writing a second letter inviting  
5 Dr. King to Selma for a voting rights mass meeting, was  
6 knocked unconscious and left for dead as a participant in  
7 Bloody Sunday and as one of only three women who marched the  
8 entire 54 miles on the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965,  
9 helped lay the foundation for the Voting Rights Movement,  
10 which culminated in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and was  
11 present when President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the 1965  
12 Voting Rights Act; and

13                   WHEREAS, Mother Boynton was a solider in the voting  
14 and human rights struggle for nearly 100 years right up until  
15 a month or so before her passing; notably, she was a founding  
16 member of the National Voting Rights Museum and the Bridge  
17 Crossing Jubilee; she was the oldest living member of Delta  
18 Sigma Theta Sorority; and

19                   WHEREAS, her life and meritorious life's work was  
20 recently celebrated in the play, Selma the Musical, and were  
21 mentioned in the movie, Selma; a strong campaign urging  
22 President Barack Obama to award her the Presidential Medal of  
23 Freedom was in the works when she passed; in addition, many  
24 are urging that the Edmund Pettis Bridge be renamed the Amelia  
25 Boynton Robinson Bridge; and

1                   WHEREAS, she was born August 18, 1905, in Savannah,  
2 Georgia, to the union of George and Anna Platts; she became  
3 involved in women's suffrage as a young girl and graduated  
4 from Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University; she taught  
5 school in Georgia before accepting a position with the U.S.  
6 Department of Agriculture in Selma as the home demonstration  
7 agent for Dallas County, educating locals about agriculture  
8 and homemaking; and

9                   WHEREAS, she married Samuel W. Boynton in 1936, and  
10 their union was graced with two sons, Bill, Jr., and Bruce  
11 Carver Boynton; Samuel Boynton died in 1963; in 1966, she ran  
12 for the United States Congress as the first woman to run for  
13 office on the Democratic Party ballot; and

14                   WHEREAS, in 1969, she married Bob W. Billups, who  
15 died in a boating accident in 1973; she married James  
16 Robinson, who died in 1988; after her marriage to James  
17 Robinson, she moved to Tuskegee, where she lived and worked  
18 until her passing; and

19                   WHEREAS, survivors include her son, Attorney Bruce  
20 Carver Boynton (Betty); granddaughters, Carver Ann Boynton and  
21 Aimee Meredith; two great-grandsons; two nieces/daughters,  
22 Germaine W. Bowser and Sharron Seay; nephew, Herman Murray  
23 Threadgill (Ann); niece, Dottie Smith; great-grandnieces,  
24 grandnephews and step-grandchildren in the Simmons and Strong  
25 families; and a host of friends, foot soldiers, and  
26 affectionate caregivers; she was preceded in death by one son,

1 William Samuel Boynton, Jr.; and grandson, William Samuel  
2 Boynton, III, (Sharron); now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while grieving the death of  
5 Mrs. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, we are extremely grateful  
6 for her abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest  
7 tribute to her inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt  
8 sympathy to her family and friends.