

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

1 SJR5

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4 ENROLLED, SJR5,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. AMELIA PLATTS BOYNTON  
6 ROBINSON.

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

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

16 WHEREAS, she and her first husband, Samuel Boynton,  
17 registered and voted in Selma, Alabama, during the early  
18 1930s; the couple risked their lives to help other African  
19 Americans register to vote and purchase land; and

20 WHEREAS, among her many victories for the Civil  
21 Rights Movement, Mother Boynton bravely invited the first SNCC  
22 organizers in Selma to stay at her home and worked with them,  
23 held meeting for the Courageous Eight, of which she was a key  
24 member, in her home in spite of a restrictive court order;  
25 risked jail for contempt of court, wrote a letter inviting Dr.

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

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

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

24                  WHEREAS, she was born August 18, 1905, in Savannah,  
25                  Georgia, to the union of George and Anna Platts; she became

1 involved in women's suffrage as a young girl and graduated  
2 from Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University; she taught  
3 school in Georgia before accepting a position with the U.S.  
4 Department of Agriculture in Selma as the home demonstration  
5 agent for Dallas County, educating locals about agriculture  
6 and homemaking; and

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

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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SJR5

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Senate 10-SEP-15

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I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

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Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives

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Adopted: 15-SEP-15

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By: Senator Sanders