

No. R-35. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Amelia Boynton Robinson, the Matriarch of the Voting Rights Movement.

(S.C.R.12)

By Senator McCormack,

Whereas, Amelia Boynton Robinson was a true hero in the long struggle leading to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Pub. L. 89-110, and

Whereas, she first participated in a voter registration drive when she assisted her mother in registering women to vote following the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a process completed on her ninth birthday, August 18, 1920, and

Whereas, in 1933, Amelia Boynton Robinson cofounded the Dallas County Voters League in Selma, Alabama for the purpose of registering African-American voters in Dallas County, and

Whereas, African-Americans in Alabama had been effectively disenfranchised since the adoption of a state constitutional amendment in 1901, and her task, which she performed with great dedication, proved extremely difficult as she was facing continuous pressure to halt her efforts, and

Whereas, in 1964, after the City of Selma adopted an ordinance effectively ending the voter registration efforts of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Amelia Boynton Robinson wrote to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King requesting the assistance of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and

Whereas, the SCLC sent a team to assist in the voting rights effort, and when Dr. King went to Selma on January 2, 1965 to address a mass meeting, Amelia Boynton Robinson was manhandled and arrested, and

Whereas, on March 7, 1965, at the start of the famous voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, state troopers viciously attacked the marchers crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and Amelia Boynton Robinson was left for dead, and

Whereas, she recovered, and President Lyndon Johnson invited her to the signing ceremony for the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and

Whereas, in 2013, at the age of 101, Amelia Boynton Robinson remains politically involved as a fighter for social justice and has established the Village of Hope organization to educate young persons about her life's work, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Amelia Boynton Robinson, the Matriarch of the Voting Rights Movement, for her pioneering efforts to ensure universal voting rights, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Amelia Boynton Robinson in Tuskegee, Alabama.