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3 By Senator Sanders
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 10-SEP-15

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. AMELIA PLATTS BOYNTON
9 ROBINSON.

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

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

19 WHEREAS, she and her first husband, Samuel Boynton,
20 registered and voted in Selma, Alabama, during the early
21 1930s; the couple risked their lives to help other African
22 Americans register to vote and purchase land; and

23 WHEREAS, among her many victories for the Civil
24 Rights Movement, Mother Boynton bravely invited the first SNCC
25 organizers in Selma to stay at her home and worked with them,
26 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 solidier 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.