

## House Resolution 601

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dr. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson on the occasion of her 100th birthday and  
2 recognizing her impact on Civil Rights in America; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, born in 1911, Dr. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson spent her youth during the  
4 1920's riding in a buggy with her mother, passing out voter registration cards and  
5 encouraging African American women to vote; and

6 WHEREAS, she enrolled in Georgia State College at the age of 14 and transferred to  
7 Tuskegee Institute two years later, where she studied economics from George Washington  
8 Carver, met her husband, Samuel W. Boynton, and ultimately earned a degree; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1930, Dr. Boynton Robinson became one of the first black Americans to  
10 register to vote in Selma, Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, she and her husband served as home demonstration agents for the United States  
12 Department of Agriculture, where they met with sharecroppers and families of former slaves  
13 to teach them everything from personal hygiene to farming and home economics to child  
14 care; and

15 WHEREAS, the Boyntons headed the Dallas County Voter Rights League during the 1960's,  
16 where they represented and sponsored many citizens who were unable to vote because they  
17 could not read, and by 1963 had registered approximately 125 black voters in the most racist  
18 county in Selma; and

19 WHEREAS, after witnessing Alabama school children with nothing to eat for lunch, Dr.  
20 Boynton Robinson envisioned the School Lunch Program, which is now available to students  
21 in every state; and

22 WHEREAS, she became the first woman to run for Congress from the State of Alabama in  
23 1964 and was a member of the "Courageous Eight" who sought to reinvigorate the waning  
24 Selma movement; and

25 WHEREAS, during the infamous March over Edmund Pettus Bridge for equal rights in  
26 March, 1965, Dr. Boynton Robinson and numerous others were beaten and gassed, and the  
27 image of her lifeless body left on the bridge was broadcast on television news shows around  
28 the world; and

29 WHEREAS, she protested the Vietnam War and has traveled to other countries and  
30 continents to spread ideas for nonviolent social change, including Pakistan, Jordan, and  
31 Africa; and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Boynton Robinson was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Medal of  
33 Freedom in 1990, and this year, she enjoys the rare distinction of celebrating her 100th  
34 birthday with a centennial celebration of her lifetime of achievements to be held in Atlanta  
35 with a fundraiser to renovate the Boynton homestead into the S.W. and Amelia Boynton  
36 Journey to Freedom Wax Museum.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body commend Dr. Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson on her numerous  
39 contributions to social change and congratulate her upon the grand occasion of her 100th  
40 birthday.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Amelia Platts Boynton  
43 Robinson.