

Day 20 Devotion

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18

"The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men and women often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication, they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires."

~ Howard Thurman

My husband was born in Savannah, GA. I was born in Montgomery, AL. Amelia Boynton Robinson was born in Savannah and died in Montgomery. I have been an activist for women's rights and have marched for many years. Ms. Boynton Robinson began her activism as a women's suffragist and moved her focus to voters' rights.

That is where similarities seem to stop. Amelia was black; raised in a large, very religious family; was a county extension agent in Alabama; and was willing to risk everything for the benefit of others. It is this last characteristic that marks the most significant difference. I was willing to take a little criticism for marching in protected environments. She put herself in harm's way many times for the benefit of Good and her fellow human being.

Ms. Boynton Robinson was presented the MLK Medal of Freedom (1990) by President Obama in the later part of her 104-year life. But her first national recognition was when her picture went viral 1960's style. It was a picture of her beaten unconscious, with the perpetrator, a state trooper, standing beside her as she had attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus bridge on Bloody Sunday.

She is credited, along with Marie Foster, in having a significant role in planning that march from Selma to Montgomery. Although the marchers were beaten and prevented from completing that march for voters' rights, months later, the Voter's Rights Act was passed under President Johnson.

Amelia Boynton Robinson took God seriously in speaking love through her deeds, not just her thoughts and safe-place support. Thanks be to God.

Say, O brethren! Let deeds, not words, be your adorning--Bahá'í saying

Barbara Conner, St. Marys Presbyterian Church

*Lord, give me the will to attend to your work of social justice,
the courage to move from mere thoughts and the strength to put feet to my words. Amen*

RESOURCE: [Civil Rights Activist Amelia Boynton Robinson Dies At 104 : NPR](#)