

Amelia Boynton Robinson Honored in Detroit

Amelia Boynton Robinson, Schiller Institute vice-chairwoman, Civil Rights heroine, and “Goodness Ambassador” for Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp LaRouche, swept off their feet everyone who had the good fortune to meet her during a nine-day tour of the Detroit area September 2-11.

Mrs. Robinson’s tour began with her participation in a three-day Midwest LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) cadre school in Toledo, Ohio, where her dramatic review of her lifelong fight for Civil Rights, human rights, and justice, and her role as international collaborator of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche and the Schiller Institute, quickly became the moral standard against which all participants felt compelled to measure themselves as they considered the challenge of leadership posed by Lyndon LaRouche.

Mrs. Robinson’s next seven days were a whirlwind of public and private meetings in Detroit. The public events included: a meeting with UAW retirees; a briefing to a class at Davenport University; a radio interview on the Henry Ford University station; meetings with two Detroit City Council members and staff; a meeting with one of the area’s leading anti-war activists; a private tour of the Charles Wright Museum of African American History; a presentation to the Annual “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” conference at Cobo Hall; participation in an anti-Bush rally in downtown Detroit; a presentation and book signing of her autobiography, *Bridge Across Jordan*, at a LYM meeting in Redford; and a presentation to a mini-conference organized on short notice at Davenport University.

City Council Resolution

The impact Mrs. Robinson had can be seen from the following anecdotes: The staff of the Detroit City Council arranged to have the Council present her with a resolution honoring her lifelong fight for human rights, and her recent years collaboration with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche.

Mrs. Robinson was also the guest of



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Civil Rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson poses with resolution from the Detroit City Council, flanked by Council member Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr. (left) and aide Dale Foster (right).

honor at a discussion and book signing of *Bridge Across Jordan*, hosted at the Charles Wright Museum of African American history. A number of the participants were themselves prominent veterans of the Civil Rights battles of the 1950’s and 1960’s. The LYM opened the meeting with the Bach motet, “Jesu, meine Freude,” and a canon; a short video was played about Amelia Robinson’s life, and she was introduced and spoke to the group. During the discussion period, the wife of the museum’s founder asked the question that was lurking in the back of the minds of many others: When and why did Mrs. Robinson affiliate herself with Lyndon LaRouche and the Schiller Institute? Her answer moved nearly all of the attendees to think, and to buy her book and have her autograph it, and get copies of LaRouche literature and give their names for further collaboration.

The Battle for Selma

Mrs. Robinson was also invited to address a class in Davenport that is doing a research project on Viola

Liuzo, a white housewife from Detroit who travelled to Selma, Alabama in 1965, to help in the marches, and was killed by an FBI informant working with the Ku Klux Klan. Mrs. Robinson, who led the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where she was beaten and gassed by the Alabama state troopers and left for dead, knew Mrs. Liuzo. The class organizers were ecstatic at the opportunity to meet Mrs. Robinson, and get a firsthand report on the struggle in Selma. After she gave a briefing to the class on September 8, the school decided to turn their Sunday afternoon classes into a seminar with Mrs. Robinson. The meeting, with over 60 people in attendance, began with the LYM singing the African American Spiritual “Oh, Freedom.” Mrs. Robinson spoke about the importance of the right to vote, about the work she and her husband did to register voters, and their work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She spoke about her work with the LaRouche movement, and said “I know now that’s why God kept me alive.”