

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

JO ANN ROBINSON

teacher, activist, organizer

“People the world over should know that any group, if given equal opportunity in education employment, civil rights, and the like, can be desirable citizens anywhere, with as much to offer as any other group.”

Page | 1



COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES

Background Information

Born April 17, 1912; Died August 29, 1992

In 1934, Robinson graduated from Fort Valley State College and became a public school teacher. After a few years of teaching, she received a master's degree in English from Atlanta University. Afterwards, she worked at Alabama State College.

Robinson's Resistance

When Robinson began working at Alabama State College, she joined the Women's Political Council (WPC). In 1949, she was verbally attacked by a bus driver because she sat in the Whites-only section of a bus. This was years before Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks sat in the White sections to spark change. She tried to get WPC to protest against this injustice, but no action was taken.

She soon became the president of the WPC and focused their efforts on the abusive treatment of White bus drivers against Black bus riders. When Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat, Robinson led organizing efforts for the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. She and others provided transportation to those who participated in their year-long boycott¹. In 1960, she began teaching again until her retirement.

Achievements

Robinson was never formally recognized for all of the work she put into the Montgomery boycotts. However, her efforts did not go unnoticed. Her work was crucial for the success of the desegregation of buses. She worked tirelessly to ensure that the boycott was effective. She continued to stay active in local politics throughout her life². Ultimately, Robinson was a crucial figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

¹ Mack, D. (2019, August 8). Jo Ann Robinson (1912-1992) Black Past. Retrieved from <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/robinson-jo-ann-1912-1992/>.

² Jo Ann Robinson. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3124>.

