



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Georgia Ann Hudson
Georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov
(334) 353-3312

ARCHIVES TO UNVEIL STATUES OF PATTIE RUFFNER JACOBS AND AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON

Montgomery, AL (11/02/2021) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) will unveil two new bronze busts in its Statuary Hall on Monday, November 8, 2021. These statues depict two of Alabama’s leading female advocates for voting rights: Pattie Ruffner Jacobs and Amelia Boynton Robinson. **Governor Kay Ivey will offer remarks in the public dedication ceremony at 11:00 am in the ADAH’s Milo B. Howard Auditorium.** This unveiling was postponed from August 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In commemoration of the August 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment, the ADAH will add these two new bronze busts to its Statuary Hall, located in the south lobby on the first floor. Birmingham’s Pattie Ruffner Jacobs was the state’s leading suffrage activist in the early twentieth century. She was the founder of the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association and a board member for Susan B. Anthony’s National American Woman Suffrage Association. Beginning in the 1930s, Selma’s Amelia Boynton Robinson was a tireless champion for civil and voting rights, a passion that extended throughout her long and consequential life. On Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, Robinson was among the marchers beaten and gassed by law enforcement officers while attempting to march in peaceful protest from Selma to Montgomery. Five months later, she attended the White House ceremony where Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson signed the landmark Voting Rights Act into law.

The new works of art were sculpted by Alabama artist Clydetta Fulmer and cast at the Fairhope Foundry. The busts of Jacobs and Robinson will be the first women represented in the ADAH’s Statuary Hall, where busts of notable men from Alabama history are installed. This is also the first time these women have been depicted in this style of bronze statuary.

“These additions to our statuary collection represent a step forward in the Archives’ commitment to deliver an inclusive presentation of Alabama’s history,” said ADAH director Steve Murray. “Moreover, the women they honor serve as wonderful models of traits we hope to see embodied by our young people—persistence, courage, and a commitment to justice under the law.”

For more information, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 353-3312. To learn more about the commemoration of the centennial of women’s suffrage in Alabama visit www.alabamawomen100.org.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state’s government-records repository, a special-collections library and research facility, and home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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Alabama Department of Archives & History
624 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130
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