



## HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION (HSMC)

Application for Historical Markers, Monuments, and Public Art

HSMC reviews all historical markers, monuments, and public art on public property; markers, monuments, and public art visible from the public right-of-way on private property within all local historic districts; murals visible from the public right-of-way. Applications must be complete before the HSMC can begin the review process. Submit this application form and all supplemental documentation as required in the "Instructions: Submittal Criteria Checklist" with one hard copy and in PDF electronic format. **Email submissions to [historic@thempc.org](mailto:historic@thempc.org). Ensure the file size does not exceed 15 MB.** If Email is not available, contact the office for alternate arrangements.

**File No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ (staff only)

### Applicant Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Property Owner Contact Information and Consent (Complete only if the marker will be on private property):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Official Correspondence:** ☐ Applicant ☐ Owner ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Check all that apply)

### Property Information: (PIN information can be found at [www.sagis.org](http://www.sagis.org).)

☐ Public Property ☐ Private Property PIN (Property Identification Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Scope of Work: (Check all that apply.)

<b>HISTORICAL MARKER:</b>	<b>MONUMENT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Freestanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Person
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall-Mounted	<input type="checkbox"/> Place
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Embedded	<input type="checkbox"/> Event
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>PUBLIC ART / MURAL (Commissioned or Existing Work):</b>	<b>NAMING AND RENAMING:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mural	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Property
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Streets

**Project Description:** Describe the proposed project and scope of work in detail. Additional pages may be attached. Submit all supplemental documentation as required in the separate "Instructions: Submittal Criteria Checklist."

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**2022 Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting Schedule:**

<b>Application Deadline</b> (Due by 3:00 pm)	<b>Meeting Date</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, December 2, 2021	Thursday, January 6, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/> January 6	February 3
<input type="checkbox"/> February 3	March 3
<input type="checkbox"/> March 3	April 7
<input type="checkbox"/> April 7	May 5
<input type="checkbox"/> May 5	June 2
<input type="checkbox"/> June 2	July 7
<input type="checkbox"/> July 7	August 4
<input type="checkbox"/> August 4	September 1
<input type="checkbox"/> September 1	October 6
<input type="checkbox"/> October 6	November 3
<input type="checkbox"/> November 3	December 1

**Estimated Cost of the Proposed Work:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Filing Fee Schedule:**

No filing fee is required for HSMC review.

**Public Notice for Historic Site and Monument Commission Meetings:**

The applicant is responsible for posting the Board Meeting signs provided by the MPC fifteen (15) days prior to the HSMC Meeting. Refer to *Chapter 9 of the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines for the City of Savannah* for additional posting requirements.

**Signature of Legal Owner or Authorized Agent:**

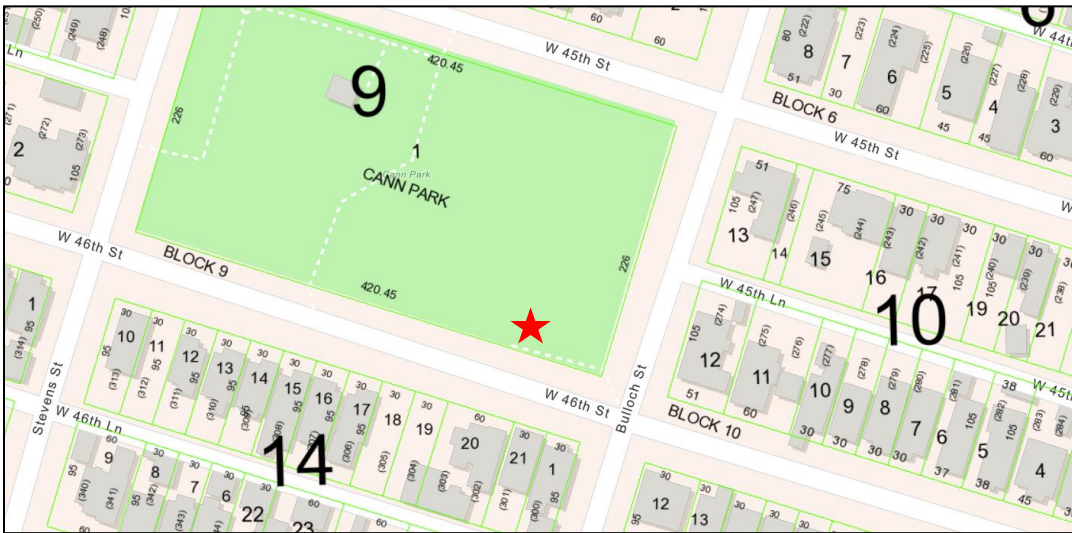
I have read and understand all the information enclosed in this application form. I understand that an Escrow Payment is required for any historical marker erected on public property. I hereby certify that I am the legal owner or authorized agent for the legal owner of the subject property.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Marker Location:**

Public Right-of-Way in Cann Park near the intersection of West 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Bulloch Street, Savannah, GA.

The marker will be located in the public right-of-way in the southeast corner of Cann Park near the intersection of West 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Bulloch Street. It will be located in the tree lawn between the street and the walking path, and between two large trees and near a lamppost. The City of Savannah Park and Tree Department has reviewed and approved the installation at this location. They will coordinate the exact placement to avoid tree roots of two adjacent trees. An 811 request has been submitted to ensure the location is clear of all utilities before installation. The marker will be located in the 800 block of West 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Alderman Robinson's childhood home is located in the 700 block of West 46<sup>th</sup> Street, just half a block away.



**Marker Themes:**

The marker addresses the themes of Civic and Institutional, Social and Humanitarian, and Local History (folklore and/or local heroes).

*Robinson was both an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah, Georgia and an influential figure in community organizing in the era after the Civil Rights Movement. Through his life-long dedication to fighting for civil rights, as well as his work building upon the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement as a civil rights attorney and as a city alderman, Robinson exemplifies the Civil Rights Movement by embodying the idea that local organizing and activism is the impetus for real social and political change. (Martinez, 2)*

Robert "Robbie" Robinson (1947-1989) began his fight to improve the lives of his fellow Savannahians as a member of the Savannah NAACP Youth Council participating in non-violent direct-action protests in the 1960s, including wade-ins at Tybee Island that resulted in his arrest in 1963. He was among the first eleven students to integrate Savannah High School in 1963. After attending Savannah State College and the University of Georgia's Law School, he joined the Georgia Bar in 1974 and worked for Georgia Legal Services before joining one of Savannah's first integrated law firms. He opened his own legal practice in 1981 on Abercorn Street. He was able to assist indigent clients and continue his civil rights work, eventually becoming general legal counsel for the Savannah Branch NAACP. He tried several civil rights and employee discrimination cases, notably serving as counsel when the Savannah NAACP appealed a federal court decision that would have altered the 1961 court order that integrated Savannah's schools and allowed Robinson to attend Savannah High School. With the intention of increasing the Black voice on Savannah's City Council, Robinson ran for alderman in 1982 and became the first Black alderman to represent the 5<sup>th</sup> District. In this role, he continued his fight for racial and economic equity by advocating for long overdue improvements in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, including paved roads, improved drainage, and traffic lights. Through his efforts the first traffic light was installed in the Liberty City area. Robinson was serving his second term on City Council when he was killed by a mailbomb sent to his law office at 1316 Abercorn Street by Walter Leroy Moody. Moody sent a series of four mailbombs, targeting the Jacksonville Chapter NAACP and the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge Robert S. Vance was also killed at his home. Moody was convicted of the killings and sentenced to death (executed in Alabama in 2018). On the day following Robinson's death, the flag over City Hall was lowered to half-staff indicating a great loss to the community. Savannah City Council adopted the following memorial resolution on December 28, 1989 (bold emphasis added by the applicant):

*WHEREAS, Robert Edward Robinson, affectionately known as "Robbie," **was a native son of Savannah;** and*

*WHEREAS, Robbie Robinson **began working tirelessly to better his community at an early age, being active in his church, civic organizations, and local civil rights activities;** and*

*WHEREAS, he successfully combined his interest in law and social justice, serving as a board member and legal counsel for the Savannah branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and*

*WHEREAS, Robbie served as Chairman of the Savannah Transit Authority and while in this capacity led the Authority in development of a new terminal and office facility; and*

*WHEREAS, Robbie Robinson was first elected to City Council as Alderman for the Fifth District in 1982 and was re-elected to this position in 1986; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1986 he was elected to the position of Vice-Chairman to the Board of Aldermen; and*

*WHEREAS, Robbie Robinson **served his district and his community with commitment and dedication and with great sensitivity to the needs of his constituents in the Fifth District and in the community;** and*

*WHEREAS, Robbie, our friend and colleague, died on December 18, 1989.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, in regular meeting assembled, that we salute Robert E. Robinson for his many contributions to this community and to this Board of Aldermen in its deliberations.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen will miss Robbie and his humor, his caring, and his warmth of friendship.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our heartfelt condolences to Robbie's wife, daughters, step-daughter, parents, sisters, and other family members.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen **urge the public to hold dear the memory of Robbie, and to join with us in creating a living memorial to him by continuing to strive for a better Savannah.***

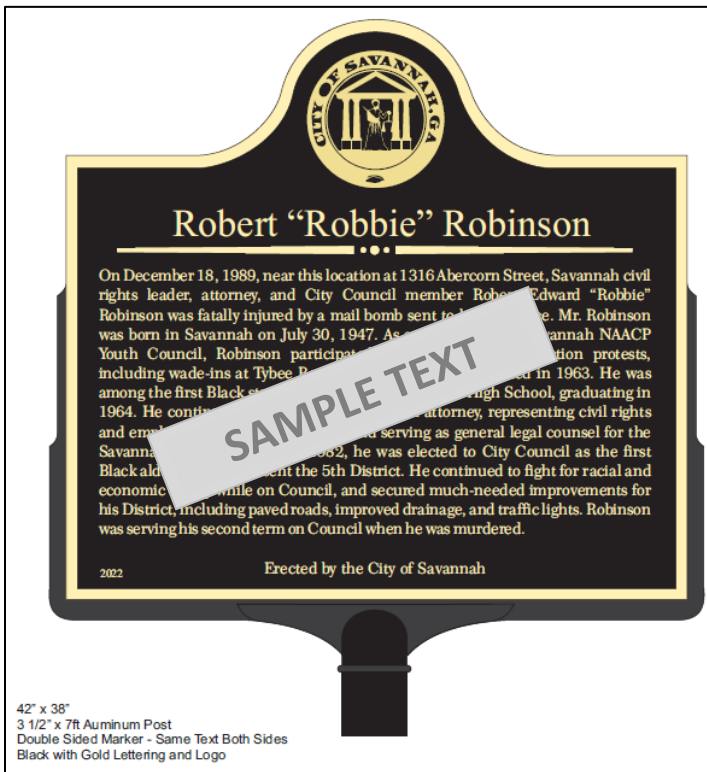
*ADOPTED AND APPROVED: DECEMBER 28, 1989.*

(Official proceedings of Savannah City Council, 28 December 1989)



**Marker Drawing:**

42" x 38" Cast Aluminum Double-sided Marker with Black finish with Gold Lettering and City Logo  
 3 1/2" x 7-foot Aluminum Post

**Marker Text:**

## Robert "Robbie" Robinson

Savannah civil rights leader, attorney, and City Council member Robert Edward "Robbie" Robinson spent his formative years in the Cann Park neighborhood. Mr. Robinson was born in Savannah on July 30, 1947 and spent most of his childhood in the home at 706 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street. As a member of the Savannah NAACP Youth Council, Robinson participated in non-violent direct-action protests, including wade-ins at Tybee Beach, for which he was arrested in 1963. He was among the first Black students to integrate Savannah High School, graduating in 1964. He continued his civil rights work as an attorney, representing civil rights and employee discrimination cases, and serving as general legal counsel for the Savannah Branch NAACP. In 1982, he was elected to City Council as the first Black alderman to represent the 5th District. He continued to fight for racial and economic equity while on Council, and secured much-needed improvements for his District, including paved roads, improved drainage, and traffic lights. Robinson was serving his second term on Council when a mail bomb sent to his law office on Abercorn Street exploded. He died on December 18, 1989, from injuries suffered during the attack.

Erected by the City of Savannah

**Text Size and Font:**

Font: Times New Roman.

Body: 0.8” tall

Heading: 1.8” tall

**Supporting Documentation:**

Please see the attached paper for a biography of Robert “Robbie” Robinson, including a supporting bibliography:

- “Robert “Robbie” Robinson: Acclaimed Civil Rights Attorney, Alderman, and Son of Savannah,” prepared by Nathan Castro Martinez for the City of Savannah Municipal Operations Office, June 2021.

**Cost Estimate:**

- 42” x 38” Double-sided Aluminum Marker: \$3,232.00
- 3 ½” Round Post: \$235.00
- Art Development for Graphics: \$65.00
- Estimated Shipping: \$247.00
- Park and Tree Department Installation: \$500.00
- Maintenance Escrow: \$500.00

**Total: \$4,779.00**

The City of Savannah Office of Management and Budget has identified and secured the needed funding for the marker, including the cost of installation and the maintenance escrow identified by the Park and Tree Department.

The marker is being installed by the City of Savannah and will be the property of the City of Savannah Mayor and Alderman, and the City of Savannah will be responsible for all future maintenance of the marker.

**Robert “Robbie” Robinson**

Acclaimed Civil Rights Attorney, Alderman, and Son of Savannah



Although, popular media stories depict the Civil Rights Movement is often exemplified by the infamous difficult campaigns undertaken in the most violently segregated cities in the United States (such as Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama), when, the Civil Rights Movement was wide-reaching and affected every part of American society, especially in the Southeast. While the acts of towering figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped to galvanize the movement throughout the United States, the organizing and direct action of individuals at the local level constituted a large portion of the work done during the Civil Rights Movement. In forgetting these local actions by individuals, however, an important message is lost—that all large-scale change, such as what was accomplished during the Civil Rights Movement, is largely accredited to both small and large actions by citizens concerned about and engaged in their communities. One such engaged citizen worthy of recognition is Robert Edward Robinson. Robinson was both an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah, Georgia and an influential figure in community organizing in the era after the Civil Rights Movement. Through his life-long dedication to fighting for civil rights, as well as his work building upon the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement as a civil rights attorney and as a city alderman, Robinson exemplifies the Civil Rights Movement by embodying the idea that local organizing and activism is the impetus for real social and political change.

Robert Edward Robinson was born in Savannah, Georgia on July 30, 1947 to Robert and Edna Robinson. Robert and Edna Robinson were the grandchildren of slaves and had met at the all-Black Georgia Industrial College (today known as Savannah State University). Robert's family called him "Edward" to distinguish him from his father, while his friends and colleagues knew him as "Robbie." Though Robinson's family was blue-collar, they introduced him to Black politics at a young age, as his father was a Pullman car porter and a proud member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. In addition, his mother was a licensed nurse who was employed at a local charity clinic and later worked for an important Obstetrician-Gynecologist. As a young child, Robinson's parents focused greatly on providing a good education for their son, tutoring him themselves. The young boy showed great promise and was even enrolled in the first grade at the age of five. These lessons learned from his family stayed with him throughout his teenage years, when he became heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah. He joined the Youth Council of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Under the leadership of the iconic civil rights leader W.W. Law, Robinson participated in a variety of non-violent direct actions in the city in the 1960's<sup>1</sup>. One of the most famous examples of his involvement with the then-burgeoning Civil Rights Movement in Savannah was the "wade-in's" at Savannah Beach (now known as Tybee Beach). At the time, the beach was segregated, with Black people being forced to travel to Hilton Head to have access to a beach. Starting in 1960, the Savannah chapter of the NAACP began to participate in a variety of direct actions in their campaign to desegregate the City of Savannah. After several sit-ins staged at department stores in the Downton area (most notably Levy's Department Store), the organization set its sights on working to desegregate one of the

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<sup>1</sup> Ray Jenkins, *Blind Vengeance: the Roy Moody Mail Bomb Murders* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2012).

area's mainstay attractions—Savannah Beach<sup>2</sup>. A small group of students working with the NAACP volunteered to stage a “wade-in” at the beach, where the participants waded into the waters of the segregated beach. The participants were arrested by the local police and placed in the, then unused, Tybee Prison Camp<sup>3</sup>. There were several of these wade-ins staged at Savannah Beach over the course of the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah, with Robinson participating in, and being arrested at, an NAACP Youth wade-in in 1963<sup>4</sup>. Perhaps one of Robinson's most significant actions during this period was his participation in the desegregation of the public schools in Savannah. In 1963, Robinson, along with eleven others, became the first black students to attend Savannah High School, graduating in 1964<sup>5</sup>.

Robinson's civil rights work did not end after he graduated high school, however. After a brief stint in the U.S. Airforce, where he served as a military police officer, he enrolled in Savannah State College<sup>6</sup>. He graduated with a bachelor's degree and was accepted to the University of Georgia's Law School. After he graduated law school and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1974, he worked for Georgia Legal Services, giving legal representation to clients unable to afford the services of an attorney. After working with Georgia Legal Services for a time, Robinson joined one of Savannah's first integrated law firms. When the firm dissolved in 1977, Robinson became a partner at another law firm. Eventually he opened his own legal practice in 1981 on Abercorn Street in Savannah's Victorian District. While his legal firm mostly dealt with benign legal work, such as wills and family law, Robinson also worked with indigent clients and continued his civil rights work. Despite the several years that had passed since his involvement in civil rights activism as a teenager, Robinson still held the same fervor and dedication to advancing the cause of racial justice in Savannah. Now, after all these years, he was able to contribute his legal prowess to the fight for civil rights<sup>7</sup>. In addition to serving on its executive board, Robinson eventually became the general legal counsel for the Savannah branch of the NAACP<sup>8</sup>. He tried several civil rights and employee discrimination cases, notably serving as counsel when the Savannah NAACP appealed a federal court decision that would have altered the 1961 court order that integrated Savannah's schools and allowed Robinson to attend

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<sup>2</sup> Clare Russell, “Upheaval in Savannah: The Protest Cycle of a ‘Short’ Civil Rights Movement,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 47, no. 4 (October 2012): pp. 773-792, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022009412451289>.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Lwanga Hoskins, “African Americans on Tybee Island,” *savannahherald.net* (The Savannah Herald, December 17, 2014), <https://savannahherald.net/african-americans-on-tybee-island-p7664-1.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Ronald Smothers, “Savannah Victim Is Called Quiet but Effective,” *The New York Times* (The New York Times, December 20, 1989), <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/12/20/us/savannah-victim-is-called-quiet-but-effective.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Jan Skutch, “Robbie Robinson Paid the Price for Savannah Desegregation,” *Savannah Morning News* (Savannah Morning News, August 18, 2013), <https://www.savannahnow.com/article/20130818/NEWS/308189800>.

<sup>6</sup> Cyreia Sandlin, “Family Remembers Savannah Attorney Killed in 1989 Bombing,” <https://www.wtoc.com> (WTOC, April 18, 2018), <https://www.wtoc.com/story/37989246/family-remembers-savannah-attorney-killed-in-1989-bombing/>.

<sup>7</sup> Ronald Smothers, “Savannah Victim Is Called Quiet but Effective,” *The New York Times* (The New York Times, December 20, 1989), <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/12/20/us/savannah-victim-is-called-quiet-but-effective.html>.

<sup>8</sup> “Robert E. Robinson (J.D. 1974): Rotunda Exhibit: University of Georgia School of Law,” Digital Commons UGA Law (The University of Georgia Law School), accessed June 29, 2021, <https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/robert-robinson-exhibit/>.

Savannah High School<sup>9</sup>. His steadfast commitment to advancing civil rights eventually led him to electoral politics. In 1982, with the intention to increase the Black voice on the City Council, Robinson, along with long-time colleagues Otis Johnson and Floyd Adams, ran for three of Savannah's eight City Council seats. All three were successfully elected to the Council, with Robinson becoming the first Black alderman of Savannah's fifth aldermanic district. As an alderman, he continued his work fighting against racial and economic inequities. During his term, he worked tirelessly to secure much-needed improvements to infrastructure in his district, such as paved roads, better drainage, and traffic lights. In fact, his efforts helped to install the first traffic light in the Liberty City area. His dedication eventually earned him a second term to the City Council. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete his second term as an alderman. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1989, a package containing a mailbomb exploded at his law office located at 1316 Abercorn Street, killing him in the blast. The bomb had been sent by Walter Leroy Moody. Two days prior, Moody had sent a mailbomb to the home of Judge Robert S. Vance of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which also proved to be deadly. Before he was apprehended, Moody sent two more explosives to the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP and the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Building in Atlanta<sup>10</sup>. Walter Moody was fueled by a mixture of racial hatred and a feeling of betrayal by the Justice system and government. Ultimately, within the midst of the Civil Rights Movement and the increasing equality of people of color in the United States, he felt left behind. Eventually, Moody was convicted for the killings and sentenced to death. He was executed in Alabama in 2018<sup>11</sup>.

The story of Robert "Robbie" Robinson is ultimately the story of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States—a series of collective direct actions by engaged citizens cut all too short. Robinson grew up under the oppressive shackles of Jim Crow Law, but, spurred on by his family and the needs of his community, he was able to find his calling in the fight for civil rights. What began as participation in protest and desegregation efforts during his teenage years transformed into a life-long dedication to the advancement of economic and racial justice for Black people in his native city. He undertook the work understanding its dangers—his participation in the wade-ins of the 1960's got him arrested and being so intimately involved with desegregating Savannah's schools meant that he was subjected to a litany of verbal attacks and harassment—but he continued steadfast in his work to improve social equality in his community. It was this dedication to economic and racial justice that ultimately claimed his life. Nevertheless, his work carries on. Countless young Savannahians, seeing the enduring racial and economic inequities and wondering how they could possibly contribute to the fight to improve the conditions of those in their communities, look to Robert Robinson and his story for both hope and guidance. They are inspired by his dedication, comforted by his ability to rise above the

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<sup>9</sup> Jeff Kunerth, "2 MAIL-BOMB TARGETS THREATENED WITH MORE," OrlandoSentinel.com (The Orlando Sentinel, October 8, 2018), <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-xpm-1989-12-22-8912222561-story.html>.

<sup>10</sup> "Hundreds Brave Savannah Snow for Funeral of Slain Alderman," AP NEWS (Associated Press, December 24, 1989), <https://apnews.com/article/577d051d8ec90b1728c04ca129fd227d>.

<sup>11</sup> The Associated Press, "Alabama Man Executed for 1989 Mail-Bomb Slaying of Savannah's Robbie Robinson," Savannah Morning News (Savannah Morning News, April 20, 2018), <https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20180419/alabama-man-executed-for-1989-mail-bomb-slaying-of-savannahs-robbie-robinson>.

challenges in his life, and both saddened and spurred to action by the violence with which his fealty to justice was met. Their own visceral responses to injustice are given direction and form by the examples of his actions. More than anything, they learn that, when individual, passionate citizens unite for the cause of justice, they can engender real change. They are shown that, rather than by the monumental figures of popular mythology, much of the real work of any movement is accomplished by ordinary citizens who care about their communities and cannot ignore injustice.

## Bibliography

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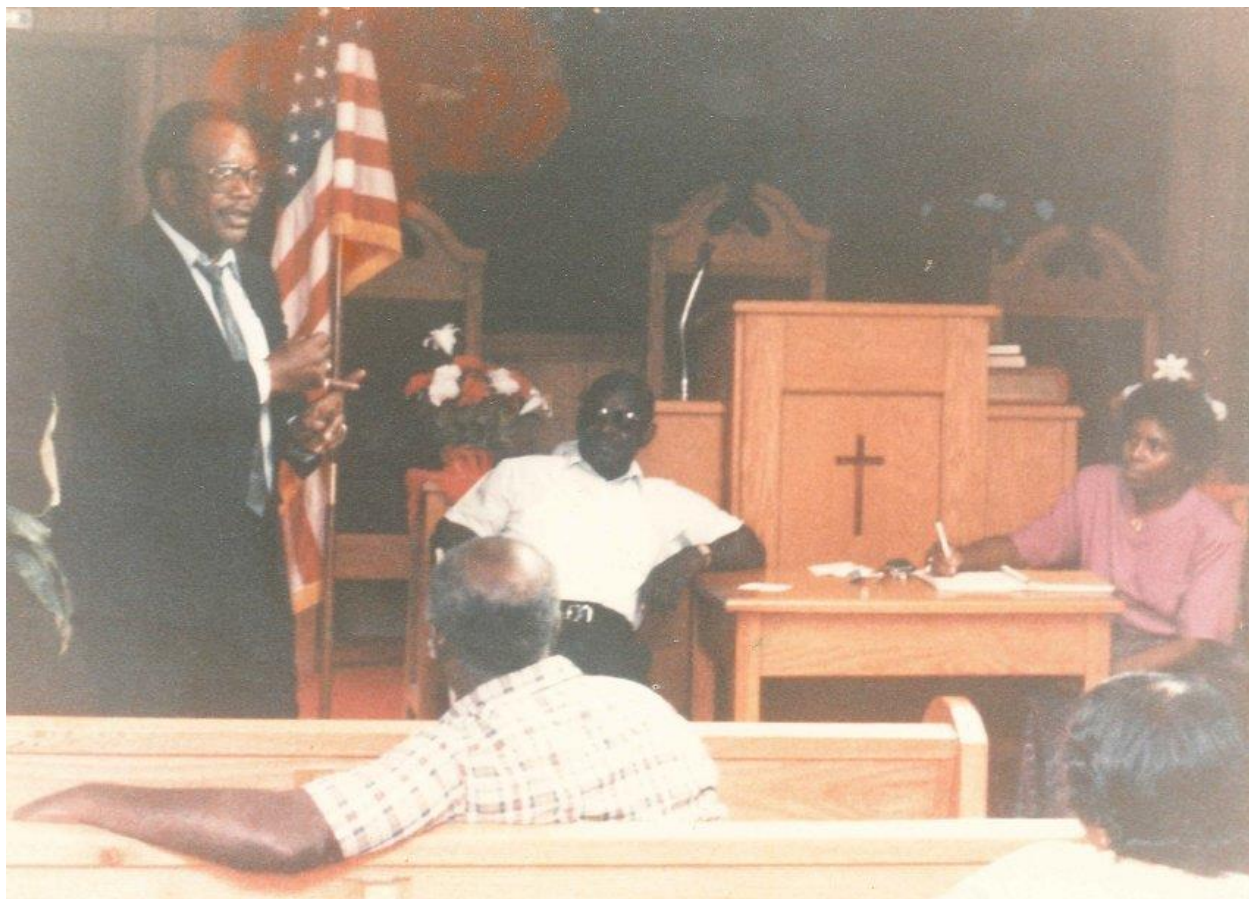


Photo from the W.W. Law Collection. Alderman Robinson at a meeting. Description written on the back of the physical photo says "1988 Last meeting of Alderman R. E. Robinson in Tremont Park."





Photograph of two NAACP activists (the person on the left being future Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson) being arrested for participating in a "wade-in" at the then segregated Savannah Beach. (GPB Savannah)



"Robbie Robinson waits for returns at the courthouse in this May 21, 1986 photo." (Paul Suszynski/Savannah Morning News)



"In this August 29, 1963 file photo, nine black students arrive for registration at Savannah High School."  
(Savannah Morning News)

Funeral program for Robert "Robbie" Edward Robinson, 1121-112, W. W. Law Personal Papers, W.W. Law Foundation, December 23, 1989.

**Service Of Memory**  
**For**  
**Robert Edward Robinson**

**July 30, 1947**

**December 18, 1989**



**Saturday, December 23, 1989**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**St. Paul C.M.E. Church**

**Dr. Henry Delaney, Pastor, Officiating**



## Necrology

Robert Edward Robinson (deceased) husband, loving father, devoted churchman, good neighbor, gallant first soldier in Freedom's Army, a good and good man.

On Monday, December 18, 1989 at about 8:23 p.m., some above all things that may have furnished him; free and unburied Robbie entered his eternal home.

Robbie was the youngest child and the only son born to Edna C. and Robert I. Robinson. He was born July 30, 1947 in Savannah, Georgia. He had two sisters, Ruth Stanley and Mrs. Robert Thallam.

He was a product of the Savannah Chatham County School System. He was baptized as a child, he became a member of St. Paul C.M.E. Church at a very early age, teaching various classes, and finally officiating in the church over the years. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees and an active member of the Board of Stewards. As a steward, he collected the offerings down the same line over the years.

August 11, 1968, he married Anne Alexander. He had two daughters, Minerva M. Robinson and Tiffany Robinson and a step-daughter, Alexis Alexander.

Robbie became a pastor for him at a very early age. He was a part of a very small group of Black students who attended and graduated from Savannah High School. He became a regular member in Civil Rights demonstrations in Savannah and across the state.

Robbie established the basis not only for his educational goals, but also set pace for his community activities. He received his B.S. Degree in Accounting magna cum laude from Savannah State College, graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in June 1974. As an attorney, Robbie gave free legal advice and representation to those who could not afford it. Robbie served as Judge Pro Tem for Anderson County. He served in the United States Air Force.

Robbie was the creator of his own Attorney Robert I. Robinson a Civil Rights lawyer, served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP. He was the staff attorney with Georgia Legal Services from 1974 to 1976. He was first elected to Savannah City Council as Alderman of the Fifth District in 1982 and re-elected in 1986.

Robbie was the motivating factor for the service he rendered as a member of the Savannah Branch NAACP Board of Directors. Member of the Regional Branch Advisory Board of Department of Human Resources, Member of Georgia Association of Savannah, Georgia Legal Services on the State Board of Directors, Member of Georgia Municipal Association, Member of the National League of Cities, Member of Savannah Bar Association, Member of Georgia Bar Association, Member of American Bar Association, Member of Georgia Trial Lawyers, former Chairman of the Board of Savannah Transit Authority, Awarded as Outstanding Young Man in America, Member of Transportation Committee of Georgia Municipal Association, Member of Georgia Association of Black Church Officials, Member of Georgia Lodge No. 1, Member of Lion Club No. 27 and a Member of Oscar Brown in Great Temple No. 21.

Robbie's fighting, inspiring and inspiring presence cannot, dwelling up and speaking out against China and Deng Xiaoping made his the first target of a Mao Bureaucracy in Savannah, Georgia. Although the real battle was waged by life it did not deter Robbie. It only broke the chains and set him free.

We know to cherish the memory of a good life. Wife - Mrs. Anne Alexander Robinson, Two Daughters - Mrs. Edna M. Robinson & Ms. Tiffany A. Robinson, One Step-Daughter - Ms. Alexis Alexander, Mother & Father - Mrs. Edna C. & Mr. Robert I. Robinson, Two Sisters - Mrs. Ruth Robinson Taylor & Mrs. Barbara Robinson Phillips, Grandchildren - Mrs. Della Robinson, Two Nephews - Mrs. Lee Robinson & Mrs. Beanie Mae Robinson, Two Nephews - James L. Thallam & Jeffrey Thallam, Three Brothers-in-Law: Mr. Henry Stanley & Mr. James Adams, Grandmother - Mrs. Minnie L. Thallam, A host of cousins, other relatives and friends.

## Service Of Celebration

Rev. Henry Delaney, Officiating

Proclamation	Ministers Of Music
Affirm	"The Lord's Prayer"
Prayer	Rev. Matthew S. Brown Pastor, St. John's Church
Solo	Mrs. Patricia Byard
Scripture	Rev. Andrew Thompson Pastor, St. John's Church
Scripture	Rev. Willie Givens Pastor, St. John's Church
Solo	"My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me"
Selection	Ms. Samuel A. Brown Jr. Pastor, St. John's Church
Tribute	"Only Call His Name"
	Late Rev. Dr. J. P. Brown Pastor, St. John's Church
	The Honorable John A. Ransick Mayor - City Of Savannah Mayor Adams, Jr.
	Alderman City Of Savannah Leo J. Givens Alderman, City Of Savannah Jim Parnell
	State Rep. District 122
Selection	"Faith, Hope"
Tribute	Catholic Choir Of St. Paul C.M.E. Church Pastor, St. Paul
Special Friend	Rev. Joseph E. Lantry Pastor, St. Paul
	Chaplain, St. Paul
	Ms. M. W. Lant President, Savannah Branch NAACP
	Ms. Curtis V. Cooper President, Savannah Branch NAACP
Solo	"My Living Shall Not Be In Vain"
Tribute	Mrs. Minnie Givens Pastor, St. John's Church
Acknowledgments	Savannah Branch NAACP
Solo	Psalm 138
Exhort	"Heaven's Eye"
Ministerial Bless	Rev. Henry Delaney
Recessional	Prayer Hall - St. John's Church No. 1 Deaconry
	Interment - Famed Lawn Memory Gardens Savannah Funeral Directors, Inc.

118 East 28th Street

## **The Prophet**

By: *Kahlil Gibran*

*In truth that which you call freedom is the  
strongest of these chains,  
If is unjust law you would abolish, that  
law was written with your own hand upon your  
own forehead.  
You cannot erase it by burning your law  
books nor by washing the foreheads of your  
judges, though you pour the sea upon them.  
And if it is a despot you would dethrone, see  
first that his throne erected within you is destroyed.  
Verily all things move within your being in  
constant half embrace, the desired and the  
dreaded, the repugnant and the cherished,  
the pursued and that which you would escape.  
These things move within you as lights and  
shadows in pairs that cling.  
And when the shadow fades and is no more,  
the light that lingers becomes a shadow to another light.  
And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes itself the fetter of a greater freedom.*

## **Active Pallbearers**

*Herman Allen  
Damon Frazier  
Charles Gardner  
Harold Jenkins*

*Horace Magwood  
Henry Moore  
Horace Nelson  
Joseph Murray Rivers*

## **Honorary Pallbearers**

*Willie E. Brown  
Elizabeth M. Sheehan  
W. Brooks Stillwell  
H. C. Morrison  
George A. Zettler  
Arthur A. Mendonsa  
John Saxon Pierce*

*Otis S. Johnson  
Bobby Hill  
Michael May  
David Jones  
James Franklin  
Lester B. Johnson, III  
Port City Bar Association*

## **Flower Bearers**

*Missionaries Stewardesses & Ushers  
St. Paul C.M.E. Church*

*Ushers Of The Ushers Association  
Dea. Donald Dupont, President*

W.W. Law Letter from Gloster Current, 1121-112.1, W.W. Law Personal Papers Collection – Correspondence collection, W. W. Law Foundation, January 11, 1990.

GLOSTER B. CURRENT

100-30 203 STREET  
HOLLIS, NEW YORK 11423

January 11, 1990

Mr. W.W.Law  
710 W. Victory Drive  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Dear WW,

How thoughtful and kind of you to send clippings and information about the Robinson murder!

This crime goes also to prove how important the NAACP still is in the nation, although there are so many who denigrate the organization and its leadership.

You and I know what the NAACP means to many who now wear the mantle of leadership. I believe both Wilder and certainly Dinkins understand what they owe to Marshall, Wilkins, White and so many others including yourself.

I did not know Robinson, though he may have been one of our youth. I did note the name of Bobby Hill and I recall him as a youth at our Conventions.


I saw the name of a Mercedes Ferguson, singer, which recalled the name of Mercedes Wright. Is she still in Georgia?

We have a youngster from our Church, St. Paul United Methodist, Jamaica, N.Y., attending Savannah State. I told her about you and if she needed any assistance, you were a good person to get in touch with. Her name is Marsha Shade and was active in youth activities at our church before enrolling at State in Sept.

I see Ben didn't make the Robinson funeral because of weather. He did get to New Orleans for the services for Ernest Morial. I was seated at the table next to Morial last December 15, at the NAACP's 80th Anniversary Dinner celebration at the Waldorf. We had a long chat. A few days later God called him. WE never know.

Just think, in Boston, that s.o.b. who killed his wife, had the entire city and nation thinking it was a black!

Keep up the good work.

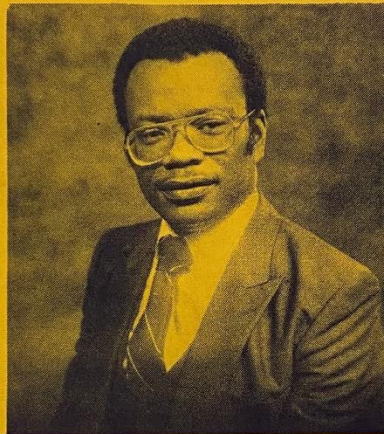
Happy New Decade,  
  
GLOSTER B. CURRENT



Robert "Robbie" Robinson Photos

Robbie Robinson Campaign Poster, 1121-102.7, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Savannah branch records, 1982.

# VOTE ROBINSON



Attorney Robert Edward Robinson

**Candidate For**  
**Alderman - 5th District**

**BORN IN THE DISTRICT**  
**RAISED IN THE DISTRICT**  
**READY TO SERVE**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

**COMMITTEE TO ELECT ROBERT EDWARD ROBINSON**  
**P. O. Box 1891 - Savannah, Georgia - 236-8322**

## Robert "Robbie" Robinson Photos

Newly elected city aldermen Floyd Adams, Jr., Otis Johnson, Jr., and Robert "Robbie" Robinson receive flowers from Adams' sister, Jackie Adams, Savannahnow.com file photo, October 2, 1982.



Robert "Robbie" Robinson at the courthouse, Bob Morris, Savannah Morning News, June 8, 1982.

