

PROGRAM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560
(202) 357-4176
FAX: 786-2973

March 20, 1996

Mrs. Idessa W. Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Mrs. Redden:

On behalf of the National Museum of American History, we want to thank you for participating in the program, "Walking Montgomery," the Smithsonian Institution's observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the inception of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

Your powerful, moving testimonies brought to life that period in our history when Montgomery's women helped change the face of America during 381 intense days.

Your trip to Washington and participation in "Walking Montgomery" is now institutionalized as a part of the year long celebration of Smithsonian's 150 years of documenting and honoring America's history makers.

Again, we thank you, and may God richly bless you.

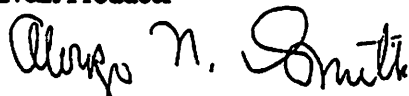
Sincerely,



Niani Kilkenny
Director
Program in African American Culture



Regina Taylor-Wynn
Event Producer



Alonzo N. Smith
Research Historian

NK:rtw



The Southern Poverty Law Center
PRESENTS THIS AWARD OF APPRECIATION
TO

Idessa Redden

FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN THE
DEDICATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

NOVEMBER FIFTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE

Morris Dees, Executive Director

Morris Dees

"...UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATERS
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM."

-Martin Luther King Jr. from the Book of Amos

Montgomery

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

TOM GARDNER, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1066 ADAMS AVENUE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

November 15, 1995

Ms. Lani Ashner
Citizen of the Year Award
P. O. Box 1000
Montgomery, AL 36101-1000

Dear Ms. Ashner:

I am happy to recommend Mrs. Idessa Redden for the Citizen of the Year Award. Mrs. Redden has worked for Montgomery Community Action Committee, Inc. for 27 years. She is a very hard working conscientious person who always seem to love her job. Mrs. Redden has always been dedicated to helping the children and parents in the area she serves.

Mrs. Redden has gone out of her way to help not only the Head Start Program but those in our community who are less fortunate.

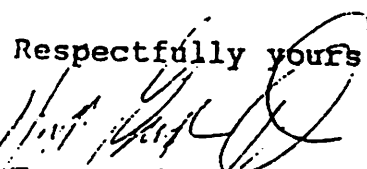
She as been instrumental in the uplifting of the excluded and exploited in our community.

Again, I am please to recommend Mrs. Redden for the Citizen of the Year Award.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

I remain

Respectfully yours,


Tom Gardner, Jr.
Executive Director



THE PHILADELPHIA MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ASSOCIATION FOR NONVIOLENCE, INC.

1809 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130-3916 (215) 751-9300

August 8, 1989

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Contributions to the

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Are tax deductible

Mrs. Idessa Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Mrs. Redden,

Our 1989 Freedom Riders, both young and old, were indeed honored and proud to have met you during our "1989 Freedom Ride". It was a rare opportunity to meet and talk with you, a true veteran and foot soldier of the Civil Rights Movement.

Your presence and participation during our visit to Montgomery sparked our imagination, lifted our spirits, and gave us a new commitment to the continuous struggle for freedom.

Thank you for being there, then and now.

Sincerely,


Anita M. Rogers
Executive Director

AMR/fcs

Enclosure.

Vanzetta Penn McPherson

ATTORNEY AT LAW

639 MARTHA STREET

COTTAGE HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
AND ALABAMA

TELEPHONE (205) 262-7337

10 May 1990

Mrs. Idessa Redding
Montgomery Community Action Agency
1066 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Mrs. Redding:

You are one of those people in our community who constantly serves but seldom looks for praise. Thus, it is with a special sense of gratitude that I congratulate you on your selection as a Senior of Achievement and wish for you and for us your continued health and mobility. I have watched you from afar and up close, and I am proud of the brand of African American womanhood which you exemplify.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Vanzetta

VANZETTA PENN MCPHERSON

VPM/bt

The Southern
POVERTY LAW CENTER

WASHINGTON BLDG. P. O. BOX 2087 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36103 205/262-4807

January 4, 1972

MEMO

TO: Plaintiffs in Reapportionment Case
FROM: Morris Dees

Victory was won yesterday in Court. The Court accepted our plan which provided for 105 single member house seats for the Alabama legislature and 35 single member senate seats.

Blacks now have the real opportunity to elect as many as 20 members to the Alabama legislature.

I have enjoyed handling this case for you. If I can be of service in the future, please call.

The Southern
POVERTY LAW CENTER
WASHINGTON BLDG. • MONTGOMERY, ALA. 36103 • 205/262-4807



Ms. Idessa Williams
1010 Bragg
Montgomery, Alabama

November 15, 2001

Dear Mrs. Idessa,

Thank you for recognizing and nurturing (along with my Foster-Patton Families, Mrs. Hazel Gregory, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Smith, Mrs. Jeriline Bethune, "Sweetie Girl," Judge Charles Conley and Coach Rufus A. Lewis) my thirst for freedom when I was a young girl in the mid 1950s.

Thank you for allowing me (no doubt as a pest who constantly asked you "when do we get our freedom?") to travel with you and to learn from you community-organizing skills. What I learned from you fortified my sense of self-worth, self-confidence and self-criticism as the foundation to serve others.

Thank you for always being there for young people, from our early days in our "stride towards freedom" to this very day when we constantly call upon you to motivate young people to take up the challenge to continue the legacy.

Thank you for always being "on ready," from generation to generation in linking our lifetimes in our quest for freedom.

Thank you for being my mentor for over 47 years and for encouraging me to "hang in there and to hang tough." **Democracy will work for all of us. We will be first-class citizens. We will enjoy the full complement of constitutional rights guaranteed to all USA citizens.**

With Deep Love and Respect,

Gwendolyn M. Patton

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Vice Chair
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Montgomery Area Council On Aging

March 20, 1990

Mrs. Odessa Williams Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, AL 36108

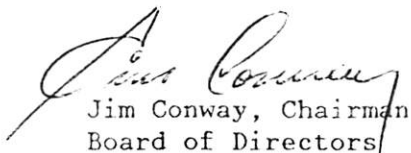
Dear Mrs. Redden:

It is our great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as one of Montgomery's Seniors of Achievement for 1990. The award, sponsored jointly by the Montgomery Area Council on Aging and the Advertiser-Journal Company, will be presented to you at a recognition dinner on Tuesday, May 15, 1990 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alabama Room of the Governor's House Motel. Our guest speaker for the evening is Abigail Van Buren, or "Dear Abbey" as she is known, and you will have a chance to meet her personally from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at which time the dinner will begin.

You and one guest will receive a complimentary invitation. We would be happy to send invitations to the recognition event to your family and friends. If you have someone you would like to include, please send their names and addresses to Lucy Parsons at the MACOA office, 115 East Jefferson Street; Montgomery, AL 36104.

Congratulations to you on this fine honor. You have made many contributions to our community and you are certainly an inspiration to all of us. We will be in touch with you in the next few weeks to confirm plans for this recognition event.

Sincerely,


Jim Conway, Chairman
Board of Directors



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

EMORY FOLMAR
MAYOR

May 9, 1990

Mrs. Idessa Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Mrs. Redden:

Congratulations on being selected as one of the 1990 Seniors of Achievement.

This is an honor richly deserved as you have given of yourself, your time, and energy.

Your work with the Montgomery Community Action Headstart program for the past 20 years has left an indelible mark on many young children.

Again, congratulations and God bless you as you continue your special ministry to others.

Sincerely,


Emory Folmar
Mayor

EF:rw

Nominee

Mrs. Idessa Williams Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, Alabama
Phone: 263-3539

Mrs. Idessa W. Redden is a Social Worker for Montgomery Community Action Head Start program. This is a job that she has held for over twenty years. She works 120 families in the Trenholm Court, Tulane Court, and Macedonia Communities. She communicates with other agencies, businesses, and professional people to assist and provide for low income families, including those with handicapping conditions.

She always find a way to support the seniors as well as the youth. She volunteers her services to pick up and deliver food share and commodities on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Redden is very helpful in neighborhood by accompanying the elderly to keep their medical appointments, paying their utilities bills or any other task she can perform.

I have seen her take up donations from friends to purchase furniture for burned out families on several occasions.

She is a member of St. Jude and is well known for her participation in the Social Service Department of that church. I have been told of the important part that Mrs. Redden played in the vote of registration and to the civil rights movement in Montgomery, Alabama.

I feel that a senior of this age, still working daily to provide help where ever needed, is worthy of consideration for a senior award. I adore her spirit and the wonderful things she will do to motivate and build self esteem for young people as well as older americans.

Submitted by
Juanita Taylor
2941 Tyler Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36110
Phone: 264-5533

January 24, 1985
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March 20, 1990

Ms. Juanita J. Taylor
2941 Tyler Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

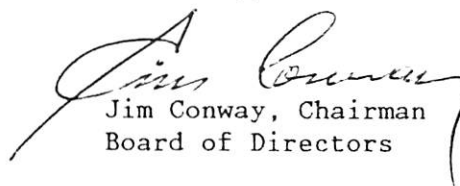
Dear Ms. Taylor:

It is a pleasure to inform you that Mrs. Odessa Williams Redden has been selected as one of Montgomery 10 Seniors of Achievement for 1990. We appreciate your interest in the program and your taking time to submit your nomination.

The winning seniors will be recognized at a recognition dinner on Tuesday, May 15, 1990 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alabama Room at the Governor's House Motel. Our guest speaker for the evening is Abigail Van Buren and we are very pleased that she will be with us to honor the 10 Seniors of Achievement. You will receive an invitation at a later date. We hope you will come and honor your nominee and the other winners. If you know of others who would like to attend this recognition, please contact Lucy Parsons at the MACOA office. We will be in touch with you in a few days to confirm plans for this event.

Again, our sincere thanks for your participation.

Sincerely,


Jim Conway, Chairman
Board of Directors

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LAW OFFICES
MANDELL & BOYD
25 SOUTH COURT STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

HOWARD A. MANDELL
DELORES R. BOYD

P. O. BOX 4248
ZIP 36103-4248
AREA CODE 205
262-1666

May 11, 1990

Ms. Idessa W. Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, AL 36108

Dear Ms. Redden:

It was my good fortune and pleasure to be on the Committee which selected the Seniors of Achievement because it gave me and Solomon Seay the opportunity to "introduce" you to the other Committee members. Since my childhood days surrounded by Montgomery Improvement Association activities, I have respected your genuine commitment to betterment of political and economic conditions for our people. I will always remember you as "Ms. Idessa Williams" and think first of your commitment to get people registered to vote; I can even recall the many times I saw you in action at the MIA office on Dorsey Street and visited your home for something in connection with that struggle. You certainly deserve this public acknowledgement of your life-long commitment, and I was surely proud to be a part of making it happen.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,


Delores R. Boyd

DRB/fmf

April 26, 2004

Mayor Robert Bright
City Hall
Montgomery Alabama

Dear Mayor Bright;

The celebration in 2005 planned to commemorate the Montgomery bus boycott has made me remember once again the most remarkable woman I ever met, Idessa Williams Redden.

I was one of a group of volunteers from Chicago and Detroit who, in May 1965, came to Montgomery to assist in voter-registration. Our group was fortunate enough to have Mrs Williams as our director. She assigned us, taught us, led us superbly - it was a week none of us would ever forget.

I was able to come back later that year with a smaller group when I had the privilege of being Mrs Williams's guest. During this time I came to know her as a person, as well as a leader; her courage, her wisdom, her steadfastness made an indelible impression on me.

As my nieces and nephews grew up, I told them about this important experience and this extraordinary woman who had made it so significant. One of my nephews was inspired to go to Mississippi.

to work on a literacy project in a rural area.
To take care of his expenses we created the Idessa
Williams Fund. I could think of no better way to
honor her. The fund was able to help the same
nephew with law school and he is now a practicing
attorney in Philadelphia working with Community
Legal Services. His field is predatory lending.

Some people have monuments in stone, statues
in bronze; Idessa Williams Redden's is in human lives.
Every house my nephew saves in Philadelphia is part
of her living monument.

We both hope to be present in Montgomery
in 2005!

Yours very sincerely,

Joanna Settle

Joanna Settle

PO Box 1060

Washington CT

06793

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

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Southern Christian
Leadership Conference

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Mrs. Rosa Parks

Mrs. Marie Reeb Maher
Widow, Rev. James Reeb

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Younge, Sr.
Parents, Samuel Younge, Jr.

November 9, 1989

Ms. Idessa Redden
1010 Bragg Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36108

Dear Ms. Redden:

We at the Southern Poverty Law Center would like to express our sincere appreciation for your work in making the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial a great success.

You played an important part in an event which we hope will rekindle a fire that will shine throughout our nation in a time of need. We hope that the hours that you contributed will be ones that you will treasure throughout your lifetime.

By recognizing heroes previously unknown, we have brought a few moments of peace to families who have shared many hours of tears. Again, thanks for your contribution.

Sincerely,

Morris Dees

Morris Dees
Executive Director

Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for
Racial Equality, Inc.
150 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y. 10038
Telephone: (212) 964-8210

Dear Mrs. Williams,

Your name has been submitted by Barbara Jean Williams
in his/her application for an Eleanor Roosevelt scholarship
from this organization.

May we ask you to fill in the enclosed form as fully as possible.
Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need and
record of activity and leadership in the civil rights movement
with special preference to those who have suffered financial
hardship as a result of their work in behalf of civil rights.

Since scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, we
would appreciate your candid and complete comments on this
applicant. All information will be considered confidential.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

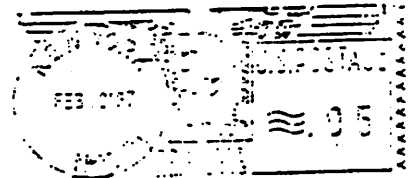
Sincerely,

Nannette Sachs

Nannette Sachs, Vice President
(Mrs. Richard C. Sachs)

SCHOLARSHIP, EDUCATION AND
DEFENSE FUND FOR
RACIAL EQUALITY

150 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10038



Mrs. Idessa Williams
1010 Braagg St
Montgomery, Ala.