

Robinson Roots 39th Annual Family Reunion

New Orleans, Louisiana

September 4-7th 2015
Volume 3

“COMMITTED, NO SEPARATION”

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 8:38-39

What a marvelous time we had at our 39th Annual Robinson Roots Reunion held in downtown New Orleans, Louisiana. Over one hundred family members traveled near and far to participate in this momentous occasion. The Reunion was hosted by the Executive Board of the Robinson Roots Family Reunion and was held at the Marriott SpringHill Suites Downtown New Orleans hotel in the historic city of New Orleans. Being a fascinating city rich in culture and historically known for its influence on food and music, New Orleans, also known as the “Big Easy,” attracts many tourists because of its uniqueness. Here you will find round-the-clock nightlife, vibrant live-music, and spicy cuisine reflecting its history as a melting pot of French, African and American cultures. And, we found all of that to be true during our time here in New Orleans.

We, the Robinson Roots, are thrilled to be in a city that displayed such resiliency in rebuilding and restructuring their city after the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina ten (10) years ago. Just as the citizens of New Orleans were dedicated to the cause, we, the Robinson Roots, are committed to our Family and did not allow distance to hinder us from coming together for a fun-filled Labor Day Weekend.

Although the 2015 reunion was sponsored by the Executive Board, each state chapter was responsible for hosting an activity as part of the weekend festivities. The weekend started with a Welcome Reception on Friday night. And, for the first time, a record number of attendees stayed and participated in the Friday night affairs. Family members were enthusiastically welcomed by President Charles Robinson. An overview and history of the Robinson Roots were presented and each attendee introduced and shared a little about themselves. Fun games were played and family members had the opportunity to catch up and meet new family members.

On Saturday we had free time to tour the city and see the sights of New Orleans. Many family members ventured to the French Market, Harrah’s Casino, River Walk, Louisiana Seafood Festival, Bourbon Street, and took trolley/bus tours around the city. We concluded Saturday evening with a banquet, themed a “Masquerade Affair”. A photographer was onsite to take pictures to capture the eloquent affair. After the banquet, there was a family dance where the young and old danced the night way. Saturday’s banquet and family dance was sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Robinson Roots. (cont. on Page 6)

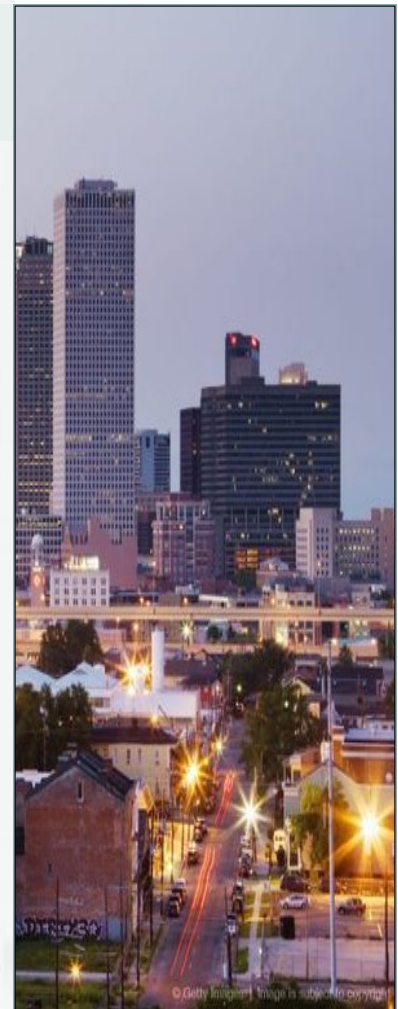
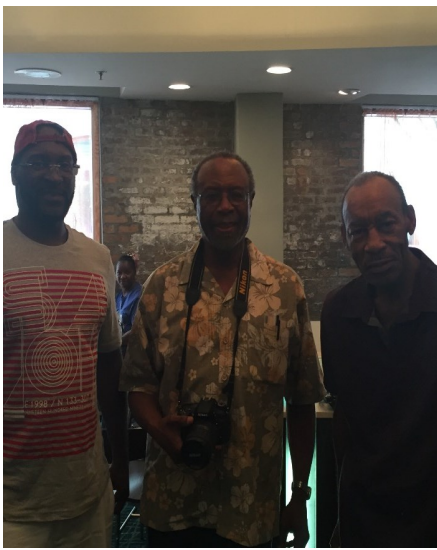


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WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA!!

Oh, how times fly! Friday, September 4th, 2015 was the official start of our 39th Annual Robinson Roots Family Reunion in famed New Orleans, Louisiana. Expectations were very high, not only to visiting such a historic city, but mainly the arrival of our family members. We know this is a challenging time for many, but for those able to make the trek down to lovely (but hot & humid) New Orleans, we thank you and look forward to a very celebratory and inspirational time together. For the first in our reunion history, we had a record number

of early attendees, as early as Wednesday. Now, getting to New Orleans was not always a smooth ride (talk to the early arrivals from NY & MD about their flights). But, thanks be to God, everyone made it here safely and in one piece. The following states were represented among the early arrivals: CT, NY, SC, and MD. Early arrival has its advantages, chances to experience the local cuisine, local attractions, and rest for the upcoming festivities for the reunion. And, as early arrivals, we did all of that!!!

States represented: Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas

Birthdays:

Miriam Wallace— 9/2
 Caroline Gonsalves— 9/2
 Franklin Biggett-09/04
 Sudell Chriwithen-09/09, She will be 75 yrs young!!!!
 W. Charles Becoat – 9/10
 Attyya Guiles— 9/19
 Marshall Becoat— 9/28

Anniversaries:

Congratulations to May & Samuel Tyson who celebrated 47 years of marital bliss on July 10th, 2015. May God bless them

PRESERVING THE LEGACY

A seed planted becomes a tree; the tree represents family. The tree consists of many parts but what keeps it thriving is the rooted love we have for one another in our hearts. The roots are the carriers of life. Without the roots, a tree simply cannot survive. The roots are the most important and oldest living parts of the tree, this is where we find our history; without the roots there would be no you....there would be no me....we would have no true identity. We should embrace our roots with pride and dignity and continue to grow into the strong tree our roots intended and envisioned us to be. If we don't preserve the legacy what will our children look back and see? A decaying tree or one filled with many branches an leaves? A tree is judged by its fruit so we must continue to nourish our roots, we must continue to embrace our past this is the only way the Robinson legacy will and last.

-Written by Water4yasoul-
 Ministeries/Dawn Tyson



Robinson Roots Family



*Maya Guiles reading "What my family means to Me"
recipient of the Doretha Robinson Davis Scholarship Award*

DORETHA ROBINSON DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Doretha Robinson Davis (DRD) Scholarship Fund was created in honor of Doretha Robinson Davis, co-founder and also the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Robinson Roots Family Reunion for over twenty-five (25) years until her retirement in 2006 due to illness. Mrs. Davis challenged the Robinson Roots family to involve the young people in order to enrich our family reunions and to keep the legacy alive. As an educator and devoted church member, Mrs. Davis worked with many youth groups to inspire, motivate, and encourage them to reach their perspective goals.

This year the youth of the family were encouraged to write a 100-200 word essay entitled "What My Family Means to Me." Several children participated and the winning essays received a \$100 Scholarship award during the Saturday night banquet as well as the opportunity to read their essays to the Family. All participants received a \$10 participation fee and a certificate.

The winners of the scholarship awards included **Aysia Royal** from Fayetteville, NC, descendant of the Frederick and Zachariah Robinson branches, **Maya Guiles** from Florence, SC, descendant of Zachariah Robinson branch, and **Joshua Cooper** from West Hartford, CT, descendant of the Samson and Zachariah Robinson branches. Congratulations to all the winners and we are looking forward to seeing more participation next year!!!

BABY BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tarrett T. DAVIS and Andrea Tvedt (JOHNSON) Davis are the proud parents of

their first-born child, Arbre'ya Tvedt Davis, who was born on May 8th 2015. Arbre'ya is the granddaughter of the late James Davis and Rozena (BECOAT) Davis.

Carrington Skylar Chapman was born in Feb 2015 to Scottie Tymel Chapman and Ashley Haynes Chapman. Carrington is the great-granddaughter of the late James Davis and Rozena Davis.

Latoya Rowell from Las Vegas, NV gave birth to Maliah Rowell in August 2015. She is a granddaughter of Luke and Rose Rowell and a descendant of Hattie Robinson.

Auri Lennox House born to Cassandra Elizabeth House and Geoffrey Marcus Brown. Cassandra is the daughter of Carolyn C. and Ronald House.

Keira Louise Phoenix was born to Maurio and Karen Phoenix on 10/22/14. She is a descendant of the Benjamin Robinson branch.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Twana Frontis & Maurice Durant are excited to announce that they will be united in marital bliss on October 10th 2015 at New Grace Temple Church, Florence SC. Twana is the daughter of James Davis and Rozena (Becoat) Davis.

Marshall Becoat & Joy Becoat will like to announce the engagement of the their daughter Janelle Becoat to Antron Stratton with a wedding date of April 16th, 2016 in Ocean City, Maryland.



Family Members over the age of 90:

Dr. Naomi B. Phoenix celebrated her 94th birthday 5/2/15.

Essie Mae Woodbury celebrated her 94th birthday on 4/23/15.

Martha Smith celebrated her 93rd birthday on 8/22/15.

Janether Myers celebrated her 91st birthday on 6/25/15.

Carrie Lee Bostick celebrated her 91st birthday on 3/11/15.

Lucille Robinson Jenkins celebrated her 91st birthday on 7/24/15.

GRADUATIONS:

Joshua Cooper, son of Dawn Tyson, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tyson, great grandson of George Jones, graduated Conrad High School of West Hartford CT June 16th with honors and a GPA of 3.56. Joshua was accepted into 13 colleges/universities for his academic performance as well as his athletic performance. Joshua received 6 offers to play college football. Joshua received several private scholarships to aid in his tuition costs. He is currently enrolled as a freshman at Central CT State University where he will be studying mechanical engineering.

Larry Williams obtained his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Larry is the son of Lisa Laverne Becoat, grandson of Fred and Doris (ARMSTRONG) Becoat. He is a descendant of Frederick and Minnie "Babe" Robinson.



A Mind is a terrible thing to waste—Arthur Fletcher

NFL NEWS:

Chauncey Mason, the son of Vincent Mason and Tina Neal Mason (also brother of Tre Mason #27 of the NFL St. Louis Rams) graduated from High school and received a full scholarship to attend Arkansas University as a running back. They are grandchildren of Dorothy Robinson and descendants of Benjamin and Hattie Robinson.



EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Ebony Mason graduated in 2014 and is in her second year at Penn State University. She is the daughter of Anthony and Patricia Mason.
- Naaila Amari Phoenix (19) a junior at Union College (Class of 2017), will travel to the Czech Republic, studying engineering in Prague at the Czech Technical University. She also crossed over Fall 2014 in the Delta Delta Delta sorority.
- Niara Amari Phoenix (17) is a senior at The Madeira School in Mclean VA. She completed an internship with US Representative Corrine Brown's office in the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill in May 2015. Niara was elected to be Head of Judiciary at The Madeira School which is the highest ranking student position. She also completed a private pilot training class with the Tuskegee Airman program in MD.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTD:

- Cameron Gerald graduated from high school in 2014. He currently attends East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. (grandson of Rev. Warren Zimmerman and Carolyn Doris Ann Zimmerman).
- Alexsys Cooper, daughter of Dawn Tyson will be starting her third year at Southern CT State University. She is a psychology major studying to be a clinical psychologist. Both Joshua and Alexys are descendants of Zachariah and Surphronia Robinson and Samson and Anna Robinson .
- Latoya Myers, president of RRR CT chapter, obtained an AIRS certification in Dallas, Texas on May 2015 (AIRS-Alliance Information Referral Systems).



"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, to give you a HOPE and a FUTURE." Jeremiah 29:11

RETIREMENTS:

- Commander, Navy Personnel Command announces the Retirement of Commander Lisa M. Becoat, United States Navy on 10-02-15 at the National Museum of the United States Navy, Washington Navy Yard, District of Columbia.
- Charles Deleon Robinson retired from IBM on May 31, 2015. He is son of the late Deleon and Creola Robinson and grandson of the late Zachariah Robinson and Surphronia "Sugar" Robinson.
- Carolyn Doris Ann Zimmerman retired from SSA on January 2, 2015, after 42 years service (granddaughter of Zachariah Robinson and Surphronia Robinson).

PROMOTIONS:

- Torrance Tyrone Davis celebrates his 31st year anniversary at Related Companies. He also celebrates his Promotion to Desktop support/Executive support manager.
- Theresa Davis, descendant of the Samson and Zachariah branch, has been appointed by the New York Conference Women's Missionary Society to serve as the Manhattan North Area Chairperson.



**Robinson Roots
Family:**

F- Faithful

A-Awesome

M-Mighty God

I-Invested

L-Love

Y-Yearly

-Latoya S Myers, President of
Connecticut Chapter

FRONT STORY CONTD:



On Sunday, the family participated in a well-attended and enlightening Sunday worship service and Communion. The South Carolina Chapter hosted the worship service. The family enjoyed a spirit-filled service where Minister Twana Frontis was the speaker for the occasion. Her scriptural text for the sermon was John 3:16. She did an excellent job in delivering the word of God. After the worship service, the Connecticut Chapter sponsored the Sunday Luncheon. The evening concluded with a Youth & Talent Show which was led and sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter.

The youth had the opportunity to display their talents. Many children and some adults participated with dance, singing, spoken word, and drama.

This year's theme was "Committed, No Separation". The outpouring of participants showed that no matter what, the Robinson Roots will remain rooted and grounded in love and will continue to first honor God and remain dedicated to the beliefs that nothing or no one will separate us from God's Love and the love of family.



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ON-THE-SPOT
EDITORS: AISHA AND AZEEZA GULES**