



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2012

JOHNNY ROBINSON was only 16 when a bullet from a Birmingham police officer's gun claimed his life on September 15, 1963. Earlier that day, four little girls had been killed and several people injured in a bomb blast that rocked 16th Street Baptist Church at the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

Robinson was the oldest son of Martha Marie Robinson and Johnny Brown. He had attended Alberta Shields Schools. His younger sister, Diane Robinson Samuels, describes her brother as an average youth who enjoyed the simple things of life, such as playing baseball.

Robinson's death came on a day already filled with tension in Birmingham. He was near a gas station on 26th Street North as white youths drove by waving Confederate flags and tossing bottles from their car windows. Witnesses told investigators that Robinson and some of his friends had been throwing rocks at a car draped by a Confederate flag.

Officer Jack Parker, a Birmingham policeman, was riding in the back seat of a police car responding