

## PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

### Juliette Hampton Morgan

activist, teacher

*“A really brave man is the first to recognize courage in others. One of the surest signs of greatness (in nations and in individuals) is the ability to recognize that quality in others”*

Page | 1



#### Background Information

Born February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1914; died July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1957

Juliette Morgan was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. Morgan was from a wealthy, White, upper-class family. In 1934, she graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, with degrees in English literature and political science, followed by her master's degree in English in 1935. Morgan worked as an English teacher, a librarian, and eventually a director of research at her local library.

#### Morgan's Resistance

Morgan came from a stereotypical privileged, White, wealthy family of the South. Her family did not talk about how racism was a big problem in their town. After college, Morgan used buses to get to work in Montgomery. On the bus, she saw how the White drivers would treat the Black passengers badly. The drivers would insult the passengers and make them give up their seats to White passengers. When Morgan saw this racism, she pulled the emergency brake to make the bus stop. This was her way of protesting.

In 1955, a Black woman named Rosa Parks became famous because she refused to give up her seat on the bus. This happened in Montgomery, the same town where Morgan was living. Morgan started writing letters in the local newspaper in support of Rosa Parks. Many White people were mad at Morgan for defending a Black woman. They began to threaten her, and they tried to get her fired from her job. Her friends and family also turned their backs on Morgan because she supported civil rights for Black people in Montgomery.

#### Achievements

After years of speaking out against the status quo, Juliette increasingly felt the pressures against segregationists in an extremely threatening manner. Although she faced institutional threats from city leaders and officials, she continued as a voice of resistance. Through difficulties with her personal health, Morgan stood against segregationists until her passing. Juliette stands as an exemplar for leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., community members in Montgomery, and advocates today. The library Juliette originally worked at was recently renamed to commemorate her contribution to the community of Montgomery and was selected into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

## Essential Questions

1. When Morgan saw the bus driver being racist, she stood up to him. Have you ever stood up against injustice? What happened?

2. Morgan wrote newspaper articles to support the Black people in Montgomery who were fighting for their rights. What platforms can you use to make social change? Which platform do you think is most effective and why?

3. ***“A really brave man is the first to recognize courage in others. One of the surest signs of greatness (in nations and in individuals) is the ability to recognize that quality in others”***

a. Name a person who you think has a lot of courage. How do you support them and develop that courage?<sup>i</sup>

---

<sup>i</sup> Brown, M. (2018, February 21). Renovation has begun on the historic Holt Street Baptist Church. Retrieved October 29, 2019, from: <https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2018/02/21/montgomery-librarian-juliette-morgan-remembered-civil-rights-stand/355705002/>.  
Juliette Hampton Morgan: A White Woman Who Understood. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2019, from <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/juliette-hampton-morgan-a-white-woman-who-understood>.  
Stanton, M. (n.d.). Juliette Hampton Morgan. Retrieved October 29, 2019, from: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1581>.