

Lucimarian Tolliver Roberts Author of *My Story, My Song*



Mrs. Lucimarian Tolliver Roberts may be best known as the mother of *Good Morning America* coanchor Robin Roberts, but the 87-year-old woman has achieved great success in her own right. Lucimarian Tolliver was born in 1924 in Akron, Ohio, where her grandparents had moved from Alabama as part of the great Southern migration. Tolliver's grandfather had been a sharecropper before coming to Akron to work in one of the rubber plants.

Years later, a second grade teacher took special interest in young Lucimarian Tolliver, nurturing the young student's academic and leadership abilities. As Tolliver prepared to enter Akron's East High, her former elementary school teacher encouraged her to take college-prep classes. Tolliver achieved academic success and won a John S. Knight Scholarship, given by the publishers of the Akron *Beacon Journal*. The first person in her family to go to college, Tolliver graduated in 1946 from Howard University in Washington, DC, where she also met her future husband, Lawrence. Lawrence Roberts became a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. The Robertses had four children and moved twenty-seven times as part of Lawrence Roberts' career as an Air Force officer.

Living through the Great Depression and the civil unrest of segregation and integration, Roberts formed a unique perspective on life's challenges. In addition to dealing with racial prejudice, Roberts has known personal heartbreaks. Her husband, Larry, died unexpectedly of a heart attack in October 2004. Then in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Mississippi Gulf Coast while Roberts rode out the storm in her Biloxi home, singing hymns and quoting scripture. In 2007 Lucimarian Roberts' youngest child, Robin, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer.

Among Mrs. Roberts' achievements, she has served as the director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans Branch; the chairwoman of the Mississippi Department of Education; and as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She also served on the Presbyterian Church (USA) National Committee on the Self-Development of People and was co-chair of the PC (USA) National Steering Committee for the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands.

Mrs. Roberts collaborated with daughter Robin Roberts to pen ***My Story, My Song: Mother-Daughter Reflections on Life and Faith*** (Upper Room Books, April 2012). The book brings together pivotal moments of Lucimarian Roberts' intriguing life and offers personal reflections from her daughter Robin.

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My Story, My Song: Mother-Daughter Reflections on Life and Faith

by Lucimarian Roberts, as told to Missy Buchanan, with reflections from Robin Roberts
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