



Cokie Roberts

December 27, 1943 - September 17, 2019

Washington, District of Columbia

Cokie Roberts - Mary Martha Corinne Morrison Claiborne Boggs Roberts - American journalist and author, one of NPR's "Founding Mothers," and a defining political voice on public radio and ABC News, died in Washington, D.C., on September 17, 2019, from complications of breast cancer. She was seventy-five. Born December 27, 1943, in New Orleans to Representative Hale Boggs and future Representative Lindy Boggs, she grew up inside congressional life and turned that inheritance into reporting rather than a House seat of her own.

Decades at NPR, PBS, and ABC - Morning Edition, The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, This Week, World News Tonight - made her a trusted explainer of Capitol procedure and American political manners. Books on the Founders' women and on Congress widened the audience beyond broadcast. Colleagues remembered toughness without theatrical cynicism: a reporter who knew the cloakroom and still believed the public deserved clarity.

Cancer treatment years earlier had already made her illness part of a public conversation about women's health and work. She kept analyzing politics with the same institutional fluency that first made her indispensable on radio. Younger journalists still cite her as proof that authority can sound conversational without becoming soft.

She died in Washington on September 17, 2019, and was buried at Congressional Cemetery. The voice on tape still sounds like the capital talking to itself with manners intact.

Roberts's gift was institutional fluency - translating power for listeners who would never hold a floor pass. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 17 remembers the journalist who made public radio feel like citizenship.

Services

Died in Washington, D.C., September 17, 2019. Journalist for NPR, PBS, and ABC News; author; buried at Congressional Cemetery.

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