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**Survivor of 1963 Church Bombing Visits the State House and the
Massachusetts Black & Latino Legislative Caucus**

Boston, April 29, 2014: The members of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) and their colleagues in the House of Representatives were honored to recognize Sarah Collins Rudolph, a survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, which killed four young girls in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Birmingham bombing occurred in 1963 during the height of the Civil Rights Movement campaign to register African-American voters. The act of terrorism killed Rudolph's sister, Addie Mae Collins, and three other girls (Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair). Rudolph, who was later known as the "Fifth Little Girl", was only twelve years old when she was pulled from beneath the rubble in the church bathroom with the other victims. The bombing left her with permanent damage to her right eye. She also suffered from memory loss and post-traumatic stress disorder. Both the mental and physical injuries she suffered from the blast would later hinder her plans of pursuing a career in nursing.

Following the bombing, Rudolph later suffered more loss as she worked to locate her sister's remains, which went missing from the marked cemetery plot. Through it all, Rudolph continues to share her message of faith and forgiveness across the United States. Joined by her husband George, Rudolph plans to make several stops across the Commonwealth, including visits to Roxbury Community College and Worcester State University. With the full body of the General Court, the MBLLC presented her with a citation recognizing her as an ambassador of peace.

"Stories like the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing remind us of how cruel intolerance can be. As we continue to strive towards equality, we must never forget our past and the countless lives we lost to get here," said Representative Marcos Devers (D-Lawrence), Chairman of the MBLLC.

"Reflecting back to 1963, the year of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom had occurred less than a month previous to the incident and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy almost two months after. This was a hateful period in our nation's history," said Representative Benjamin Swan (D-Springfield). "I admire Mrs. Rudolph for her willingness to become an Ambassador of Peace rather than for Hate; the type of hate which had caused so much pain in her own life," continued Representative Swan.

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