



RUTH BATSON: CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

by Dan Hernan

One of Ruth Batson's most memorable accomplishments was challenging the all white Boston School Committee. She fought for equal opportunities for all people. Batson also pointed out that schools with a high percentage of black students had poor funding and horrible school conditions.

She was also the executive director of METCO Inc., Chairwoman of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the first black woman on the Democratic National Committee, and the first woman elected president of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of the New England Regional Conference. Batson also studied at the Nursery Training School of Boston and later received a Master of Education degree from Boston University in 1976.

**“When we fight about education,
we’re fighting for our lives.”**

Did you know?
Batson was the
chairwoman of the
Public Education
Committee of the
NAACP Boston
Branch.

