

Ceremony today for 1st female Alabama governor, 50th anniversary of her death

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Portrait of Gov. Lurleen Wallace (1st female governor for Alabama).

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Gov. Lurleen Wallace died on May 7, 1968.

Wallace was the first female governor in the state of Alabama and began her term in January 1967.

She served as the 46th governor of Alabama after her husband, Gov. George Wallace, termed out.

Wallace only served a 15-month term since she died while battling cancer in office.

She was known for her work to improve mental health facilities in Tuscaloosa and improve parks and recreation in Alabama.

State Auditor Jim Zeigler has been working to restore Wallace's portrait to the Capitol's rotunda area.

In April, he told CBS 42 that Ex-Governor Robert Bentley's staff removed the portrait from the area and replaced it with a portrait of Bentley.

"That was premature because the governors are out of office before the portraits are painted and put in the rotunda," Zeigler said.

Zeigler's office has planned a commemoration ceremony for Wallace.

The 30-minute ceremony is set to start at 1:15 p.m. Monday at Wallace's marble statue inside the state Capitol.

