



ROSA PARKS
THE MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT

FEBRUARY 4, 1913 – OCTOBER 24, 2005



"The Beginning"

METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH
1518 M STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

Memorial Service for
Rosa Parks
Monday, October 31, 2005
1:00 p.m.

Chief Liturgist
Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson

Mistress of Ceremony
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Prelude

Marietta Simpson
Carmen Balthrop
Cicely Tyson School of
Performing Arts

Processional

Hymn

Negro National Anthem:
Lift Every Voice and Sing
Rev. Ronald E. Braxton

Invocation

Rev. Grainger Browning

Scripture Lesson

Old Testament
New Testament

Rev. Leah Daughtry
Dr. Cain Hope Felder

Tributes

- Dr. Dorothy Height, President, the National Council of Negro Women
- The Honorable Julian Bond, Chair, NAACP
- Mr. Bernard Kinsey
- Ms. Gwen Ifill, Sr. Correspondent, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer
- U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (KS)
- U.S. Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (MI)

Selection

Mass Choir
Metropolitan A.M.E. Church

Tributes

- Ms. Oprah Winfrey, Chairman, Harpo, Inc.
- U.S. Representative Julia Carson (IN)
- U.S. Congressman Melvin Watt (NC), Chairman Congressional Black Caucus
- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)
- Mr. Bruce Gordon, President and CEO, NAACP
- Mr. Ernest Green, Little Rock Nine

Selection

Ms. Tramaine Hawkins

**Closing Remarks
and Prayer**

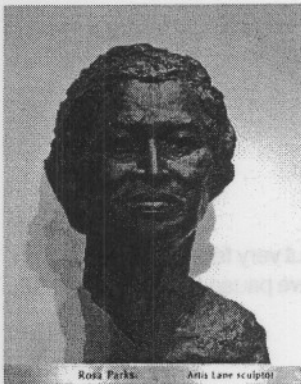
Bishop Adam
Jefferson Richardson

Recessional

Choirs

Closing Prayer

Bishop Richardson



Obituary

ROSA LOUISE PARKS

February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005

Rosa Louise Parks, a prime mover in changing the course of American history, sparked the modern civil rights movement in 1955 when she courageously refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus to a white man when ordered to do so by the bus driver. Her act triggered a wave of protest that reverberated throughout the United States. A seamstress by profession, Mrs. Parks was born February 4, 1913 to Leona and James McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mrs. Parks passed on October 24, 2005 in Detroit, her home since 1957.

She was active in the civil rights movement long before her brave act of defiance and was secretary of the Montgomery Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is often referred to as "the Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement."

She was one of the first women to join the Montgomery NAACP Branch in 1943. In addition to being the branch secretary, she was a youth advisor. She holds two life memberships in the NAACP.

Mrs. Parks's activism started after she married Raymond Parks in 1932. The couple volunteered on voter registration and raised money in defense of the Scottsboro Boys, nine young African American men pulled off a train, falsely accused and found guilty of raping two white women in 1931.

Her action nearly 50 years ago captivated the nation and helped propel a young preacher, Martin Luther King, into the spotlight after he was drafted to head the Montgomery Improvement Association that led the boycott. Her act of defiance on December 1, 1955 reflected strength and bravery that belied her calm, dignified demeanor. For refusing to give up her seat, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees. Her action occurred at a time when African Americans who refused to give up their seat on a bus to a white man could not only be arrested, but even killed.

In 1956, the Parks's case led to the United States Supreme Court ruling that segregated public bus service was unconstitutional.

Following the bus boycott, Mr. and Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit because of concern for her well-being in the wake of death threats and the bombing of churches and houses, including those of Dr. King and E.D. Nixon, president of the Montgomery NAACP Branch and a close adviser to Mrs. Parks. She became a secretary and receptionist to U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan), a position she continued in until her retirement in 1988.

Mrs. Parks received numerous awards, including the 1979 NAACP Spingarn Medal, which is given for outstanding achievement by an African American. Other awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1996) and the Congressional Gold Medal (1999), and the Martin Luther King Sr. Award. She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1983 for her achievements in civil rights. She received the Rosa Parks Peace Prize in 1994 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Mrs. Parks attended rural schools until she was 11-years-old, then Miss White's School for Girls in Montgomery. Later she attended high school at the Alabama State Teachers College.

Mrs. Parks's husband died in 1977. She is survived by 13 nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, it is asked that students and individuals send donations to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, 65 Cadillac Square, Suite 2200, Detroit, MI 48226.

Litany of Thanksgiving Honoring Rosa Parks

- Leader:** It is the wish of many to serve humanity in a manner that leaves a positive lasting impression, but very few live up to the high demands. However, there is one in the person of Rosa Parks, who has left a legacy for which we pause today, October 30, 2005, to give honor and thanksgiving for her service and the life she lived.
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, Rosa Parks, We say **thank you**.
- Leader:** Born on February 4, 1913, as Rosa Louise McCauley, to James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama; she was taught the value of education and gave of herself pursuing such in Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls and then went on to attend the Alabama State Teachers College High School;
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, we say **thank you**.
- Leader:** On December 18, 1932, Rosa McCauley married Raymond Parks. For many years she could be found along with her husband at work in the Montgomery Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rosa Parks gave unselfishly as she served as a secretary and youth advisor;
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, we say **thank you**.
- Leader:** Rosa Parks gave evidence of her faith in the Almighty God as she fought for the freedom that belongs to all. She is noted as the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement because of her heroic contribution on December 1, 1955. On that day, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the "colored" section of the bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the "white" section was full; the arrest of Rosa Parks led African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated; the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all;
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, **we say thank you**.
- Leader:** The life of this freedom fighter, Rosa Parks, made such an impact that in 1956, because of her brave act of defiance, the United States Supreme Court eventually ruled that segregated public bus service was unconstitutional.
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, **we say thank you**.
- Leader:** Upon relocation in 1957 to Detroit, Michigan, she continued to live a life of integrity and faith. In 1965, Representative John Conyers hired Rosa Parks as a member of his staff, where she served in various administrative capacities until retiring in 1988 at the age of 75;
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, **we say thank you**.
- Leader:** Her civil rights service continued throughout her life and continues to make lasting impressions, in 1987 she organized the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. This nonprofit organization motivates young people through its many educational programs to reach their highest potential;
- People:** For the life of this woman of honor, **we say thank you**.
- Leader:** In 1988 Rosa Parks said: "I am leaving this legacy to all of you to bring peace, justice, equality, love and a fulfillment of what our lives should be. Without vision, the people will perish, and without courage and inspiration, dreams will die—the dream of freedom and peace."
- People:** We thank God for Rosa Park's fighting spirit, her bright and warm smile, her fierce determination, her courage, her faithfulness, but most of all, her shining example of FAITH in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Leader:** Although our hearts are saddened as we pause to give honor and make mention of her transition from life here on earth to her Heavenly home on October 24, 2005, in Detroit at her home, we rejoice that she passed our way.
- People:** We remember and honor Rosa Parks. May the work she's done, speak for her. May the life she lived, speak for her; may the service she gave, speak for her. Thank you God for Rosa Parks and her heroic contributions.
- All:** We remember this woman of honor, Rosa Parks and thank her for the life she lived has spoken well of her. Thank you Rosa Parks, may we continue to walk in the pathway of duty.