# Rosa Parks

1913 - 2005

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

NAACP

FOUNDED

1909

# "The Beginning"

*"Memories of our lives,*
*of our works and of our*
*deeds will continue in others."*

# A
# Service of
# Remembrance & Thanksgiving
# In Honor of the Life and Contributions of

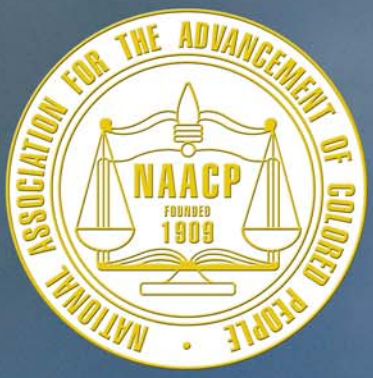
# Rosa Parks

*Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement*

*10:30am*
*Sunday, October 30, 2005*

*St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church*
*706 East Patton Avenue*
*Montgomery, Alabama*
*The Reverend Joe Rembert, Pastor*

*Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it.*



# *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**.

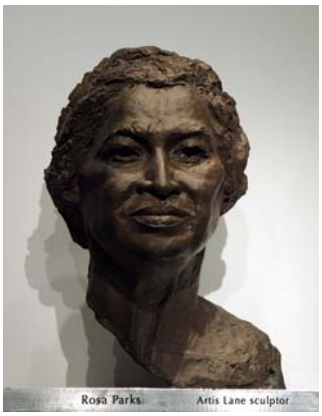
**Leader:** In 1988 Rosa Parks said: "I am leaving this legacy to all of you ..... to bring peace, justice, equality, love and a fulfillment of what our lives should be. Without vision, the people will perish, and without courage and inspiration, dreams will die—the dream of freedom and peace."

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.




# *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.

# *A Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving*

# *Rosa Louise McCauley Parks*

## *Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement*

*Reverend Joseph Rembert, Presiding*

The Gathering ..... Troy University Gospel Choir

The Processional

The Word of Grace

Hymn of Praise ..... *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*

Prayer of Thanksgiving ..... **Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry**
Sixteenth Episcopal District
AME Church
Los Angeles, California

Reading of Holy Scripture

Old Testament ..... Psalm 27:1-6 ..... **Dr. Jack Hawkins**
Chancellor, Troy University

New Testament ..... Jude 16-25 ..... **Reverend Leo Brock, Sr.**
Presiding Elder, Montgomery District AME Church

Choral Response ..... *The Lord's Prayer*

Litany of Thanksgiving ..... **Lillian Jefferson**
President, Metro-Montgomery Branch NAACP
**Alethea Bonello**
Youth Director, Southeast Region NAACP

Greetings

The White House ..... **The Honorable Condalezza Rice**
US Secretary of State

United States Congress ..... **The Honorable Artur Davis**
US Congressman, 7th District of Alabama

State of Alabama ..... **The Honorable Robert Riley**
Governor

City of Montgomery ..... **The Honorable Bobby Bright**
Mayor

Expressions ..... **Reverend Al Sharpton**
**Tavis Smiley**

Tribute ..... **Cicely Tyson**

Musical Tribute ..... **Maurice J. Jackson & Elizabeth Birdsong**
Tampa, Florida Branch NAACP

Reflections ..... **Johnnie Carr**
President, Montgomery Improvement Association

Acknowledgments ..... **Ed Vaugh**
President, Alabama State Conference NAACP

Expressions ..... **Bruce S. Gordon**
President and Chief Executive Officer, NAACP

Worship through Music ..... Troy University Gospel Choir

The Spoken Word ..... **Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland**
Ninth Episcopal District, AME Church

Hymn ..... *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*

Departing Blessing ..... **Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.**
Founder and President, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Recessional ..... *Oh Freedom*

# Pallbearers

Reverend Nelson B. Rivers, III
Mr. John Johnson
Reverend Charles L. White, Jr.
Mr. Ed Vaughn
Mr. Brandon McGee

# Honorary Pallbearers

Southeast Region Members of the NAACP National Board of Directors and Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees

# Floral Bearers

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

# Acknowledgments


**Willie Edwards, National Coordinator**
**Stan Henderson, Security**
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**Anita Peak**
**Nathaniel Phillip**
**Terry Harris**
**Louis Harris**
**Aurelio Givens Little**
**Attorney J. McPhillips**
**Chris Mosely, Lt. Governor's Office**
**Jerome Gray**
**St. Paul AME Church**
**Rosa Parks Library and Museum**
**National Education Association--*Reg Weaver, President***
**Troy University**
**Alabama Funeral Directors & Morticians Association**


Donations:
By phone: 313.965.1918
By mail: send check or money order donations to:
**Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development**
65 Cadillac Square
Suite 220
Detroit, MI 48226

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Tallahassee, Florida

# *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

# LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

*also known as*

## *"The Black National Anthem"*

*by James Weldon Johnson*

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand, True to our God, True to our native land.

*I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people*

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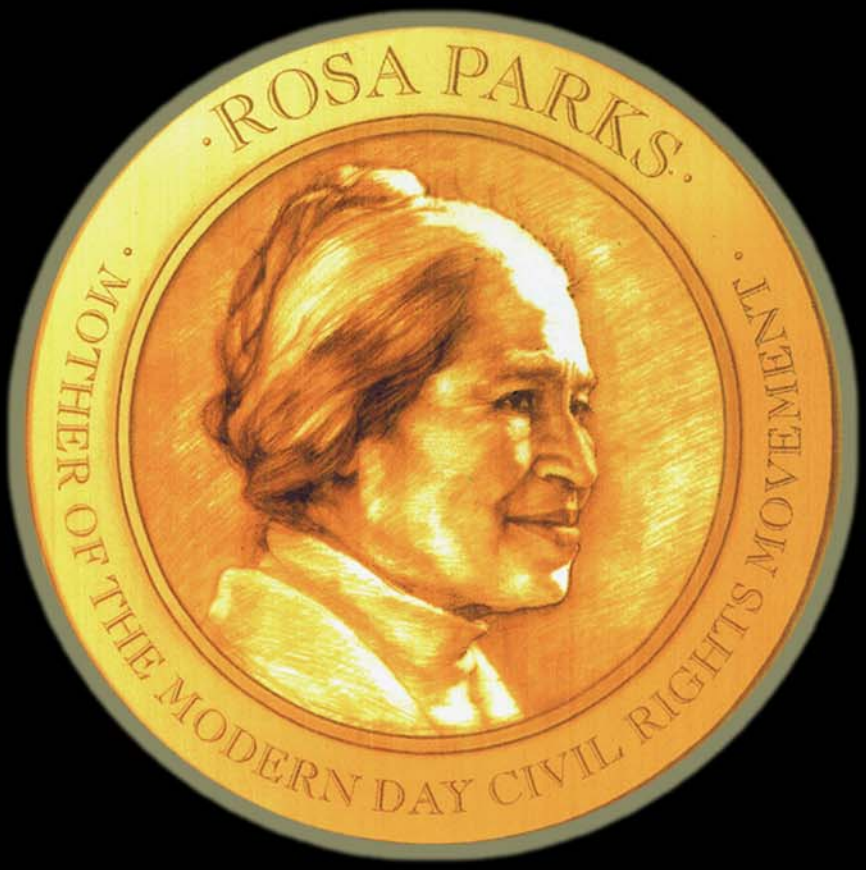


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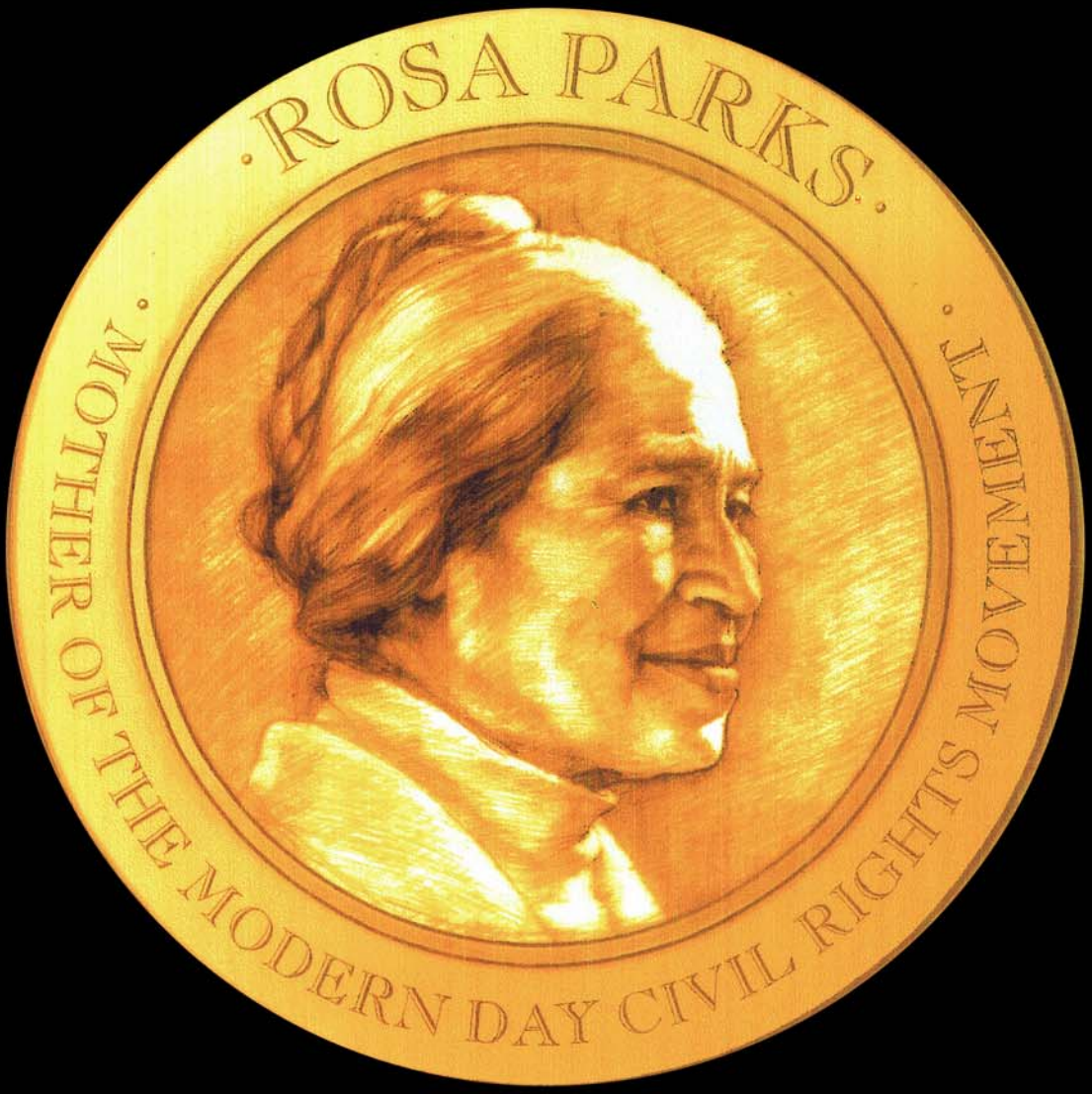
ROSA PARKS
MOTHER OF THE MODERN DAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT