

By: Representatives Clarke, Banks, Scott,
Bailey, Blackmon, Broomfield, Buck, Burnett,
Calhoun, Clark, Cockerham, Coleman (29th),
Dickson, Ellis, Espy, Evans, Flaggs,
Fredericks, Gibbs, Harrison, Hines, Holloway,
Huddleston, Johnson, Lane, Middleton, Morris, Myers, Perkins, Robinson
(63rd), Straughter, Thomas, Watson, Coleman (65th), Brown, Whittington

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSA LOUISE
2 MCCAULEY PARKS, THE "MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT," AND
3 RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER
4 SEAT ON THE BUS AND SUBSEQUENT DESEGREGATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

5 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks, whose act of civil disobedience in 1955
6 inspired the modern civil rights movement, died Monday, October
7 24, 2005, in Detroit, Michigan, at 92 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise Parks was born on February 4, 1913, to
9 James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama, and educated in
10 Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the
11 Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, going on to attend high
12 school at Alabama State Teachers College; and

13 WHEREAS, on December 18, 1932, Rosa Louise McCauley married
14 Raymond Parks and the two settled in Montgomery, Alabama, where
15 they worked in the Montgomery branch of the National Association
16 for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Raymond as an
17 active member and Rosa as a secretary and youth leader; and

18 WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks was arrested
19 for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on orders from the
20 bus driver because the "white" section was full; and

21 WHEREAS, the arrest of Rosa Louise Parks led African
22 Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until
23 the buses in Montgomery were desegregated; and

24 WHEREAS, the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other
25 courageous people across the United States to organize in protest
26 and demand equal rights for all; and

27 WHEREAS, the fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by
28 Rosa Louise Parks and others resulted in a legal action

29 challenging Montgomery's segregated public transportation system
30 which subsequently led to the United States Supreme Court, on
31 November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held
32 that Montgomery segregation codes denied and deprived African
33 Americans of the equal protection of the laws (352 U.S. 903); and

34 WHEREAS, in 1957, following the Montgomery bus boycott, Rosa
35 Louise Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, and continued her civil
36 rights work through efforts that included working in the office of
37 Congressman John Conyers, Jr., from 1965 until 1988, and in 1987
38 started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development
39 that motivated youth to reach their highest potential; and

40 WHEREAS, Congressman Conyers stated, "I think that she, as
41 the mother of the new civil rights movement, has left an impact
42 not just on the nation, but on the world. She was a real apostle
43 of the nonviolence movement"; and

44 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise Parks has been commended for her work in
45 the realm of civil rights with such recognitions as the NAACP's
46 Springarn Medal in 1979, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent
47 Peace Prize in 1980, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and
48 the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; and

49 WHEREAS, in 2005, the year marking the 50th anniversary of
50 Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus, we
51 recognize the courage, dignity and determination displayed by the
52 late Rosa Louise Parks as she confronted injustice and inequality:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
54 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
55 THEREIN, That we do hereby celebrate and commend the life of Rosa
56 Louise McCauley Parks, the "Mother of the Modern-day Civil Rights
57 Movement"; recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Rosa
58 Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the
59 subsequent desegregation of American society; encourage the people
60 of the United States to recognize and celebrate this anniversary
61 and the subsequent legal victories that sought to eradicate

62 segregation in all of American society; and endeavor to work with
63 the same courage, dignity and determination exemplified by Civil
64 Rights pioneer, Rosa Louise Parks, to address modern-day
65 inequalities and injustice.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this
67 resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of State to the President
68 of the United States and to the members of Mississippi's
69 congressional delegation, and be made available to the Capitol
70 Press Corps.