

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Simmons, Frazier,
Jordan, Walls, Harden, Jackson (11th),
Thomas, Bryan, Butler, Morgan, Tollison,
Browning, Clarke, Davis, Gollott, Hewes,
Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (15th), Jackson
(32nd), Lee (35th), Little, Nunnelee, Posey,
Ross, Thames, Turner, Walley, White, Wilemon,
Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

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. She was 92 years old; and

8 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise Parks was born on February 4, 1913, as
9 Rosa Louise McCauley to James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee,
10 Alabama. Rosa Louise Parks was educated in Pine Level, Alabama,
11 until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the Montgomery
12 Industrial School for Girls and then went on to attend the Alabama
13 State Teachers College's High School. On December 18, 1932, Rosa
14 Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks and the two settled in
15 Montgomery, Alabama; and

16 WHEREAS, together, Raymond and Rosa Parks worked in the
17 Montgomery, Alabama, branch of the National Association for the
18 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where Raymond served as an
19 active member and Rosa served as a secretary and youth leader; and

20 WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks was arrested
21 for refusing to give up her seat in the "colored" section of the
22 bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the
23 "white" section was full; the arrest of Rosa Louise Parks led
24 African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus
25 line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated. The 381-day
26 Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other courageous people across
27 the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights
28 for all; and

29 WHEREAS, the fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by
30 Rosa Louise Parks and others resulted in a legal action
31 challenging Montgomery's segregated public transportation system
32 which subsequently led to the United States Supreme Court, on
33 November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held
34 that Montgomery segregation codes denied and deprived African
35 Americans of the equal protection of the laws (352 U.S. 903); and

36 WHEREAS, in the years following the Montgomery bus boycott,
37 Rosa Louise Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, in 1957, and
38 continued her civil rights work through efforts that included
39 working in the office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr., from 1965
40 until 1988, and in 1987 started the Rosa and Raymond Parks
41 Institute for Self Development that motivated youth to reach their
42 highest potential. Congressman Conyers stated "I think that she,
43 as the mother of the new civil rights movement, has left an impact
44 not just on the nation, but on the world. She was a real apostle
45 of the nonviolence movement"; and

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

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

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
56 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
57 we do hereby (1) celebrate and commend the life of Rosa Louise
58 McCauley Parks, the "Mother of the Modern-day Civil Rights
59 Movement"; (2) recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of
60 Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the
61 subsequent desegregation of American society; (3) encourage the

62 people of the United States to recognize and celebrate this
63 anniversary and the subsequent legal victories that sought to
64 eradicate segregation in all of American society; and (4) endeavor
65 to work with the same courage, dignity and determination
66 exemplified by Civil Rights pioneer, Rosa Louise Parks, to address
67 modern-day inequalities and injustice.

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