

*“In quietness and confidence  
shall be your strength.”*

- ISAIAH 30:15 KJV  
THE HOLY BIBLE



**ROSA LOUISE PARKS**

1913 - 2005

MOTHER OF THE MODERN DAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

## HER LIFE STORY

According to the old saying, “some people are born to greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” Greatness was certainly thrust upon Rosa Parks, but the modest former seamstress found herself equal to the challenge. Known today as “the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement,” Parks almost single-handedly set in motion a veritable revolution in the southern United States, a revolution that would eventually secure equal treatment under the law for all Black Americans. “For those who lived through the unsettling 1950s and 1960s, and joined the civil rights struggle, the soft-spoken Rosa Parks was more, much more than the woman who refused to give up her bus seat to a White man in Montgomery, Alabama,” wrote Richette L. Haywood in *Jet Magazine*. “Hers was an act that forever changed White America’s view of Black people, and forever changed America itself.”

Mrs. Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. When she was still a young child, her parents separated and she moved with her mother, Leona McCauley to Montgomery, Alabama. Life at its best was cruel and dehumanizing in Montgomery. She faced daily rounds of laws governing her behavior in public places. Rosa survived in spite of these adversities, encouraged by the foresight of her caring mother who taught her not to judge people by what they had, but by the respect they had for themselves and others.

As Lerone Bennett, Jr., wrote in *Ebony Magazine*, Rosa was consumed not by the prospect of making history, but rather “by the tedium of survival in the Jim Crow South.” The tedium became unbearable, and Rosa Parks acted to change it.

In 1931, she met Raymond Parks, an early advocate of the Civil Rights of Black Americans. They were

married in 1932. Together, Raymond and Rosa worked in the NAACP programs where he was an active member and where she served as secretary and later as youth leader of the local branch. At the time of her arrest, she was preparing for a major youth conference.

From a modern perspective, Parks’ actions on December 1, 1955, hardly seem extraordinary: tired of being mistreated, she refused to move from her seat in order to accommodate a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery. At the time, however, her defiant gesture actually broke a law, one of many bits of Jim Crow legislation that assured second-class citizenship for blacks. Overnight Rosa Parks became a symbol for hundreds of thousands of frustrated black Americans who suffered outrageous indignities in a racist society.

After her arrest, black people of Montgomery and sympathizers of other races, organized and promoted a boycott of the city bus lines that lasted 381 days. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was appointed the spokesperson for the bus boycott.

Contingent with the protest in Montgomery, others took shape throughout the United States in sit-ins and similar causes. Thousands of courageous people joined the “protest” to demand equal rights for all people.

Following her refusal to surrender her seat to a white man, Rosa and Raymond Parks came under persistent threats of violence which prompted their move to Detroit, Michigan. Here she faced irregular employment until 1965, when she assisted Representative John Conyers in his first campaign for Congress. After his election, she was hired as a congressional staff member. She remained a dedicated, efficient and compassionate member of his staff for the next two decades.



*Rosa Parks (right)  
with mother, Leona McCauley*





*Rosa Parks*

*"Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement"*



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*The family of Rosa Louise Parks wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the massive outpouring of condolences and many comforting messages, prayers and expressions of love.*

CONDOLENCES AND CARDS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN THIS  
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THE NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE FOR THE FAREWELL TO MRS. ROSA LOUISE PARKS  
WISH TO THANK AND APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR  
THEIR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP, SENSITIVITY AND SPIRIT OF UNITY:

**THE HONORABLE DAMON J. KEITH | THE HONORABLE ADAM SHAKOOR  
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NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION  
FOR  
ROSA LOUISE PARKS

SUNRISE - FEBRUARY 4, 1913

SUNSET - OCTOBER 24, 2005

WEDNESDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER  
TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE  
ELEVEN O'CLOCK ANTE MERIDIEM

BISHOP CHARLES H. ELLIS III, HOST PASTOR  
GREATER GRACE TEMPLE

THE RIGHT REVEREND PHILIP ROBERT COUSIN  
PRESIDING PRELATE, 4<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT, AME CHURCH  
EULOGIST

ROSA LOUISE PARKS NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION CO-CHAIRS  
HONORABLE DAMON J. KEITH, HONORABLE ADAM A. SHAKOOR,  
ELAINE EASON STEELE CO-FOUNDER OF  
THE ROSA AND RAYMOND PARKS INSTITUTE FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT

*Thanks for the memories.*

*We miss you.*

*May you rest in peace.*



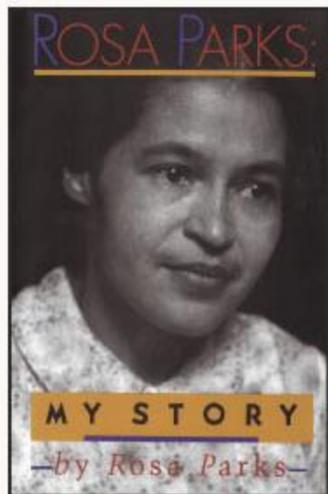
Within months of each other, Mrs. Parks lost her only brother and her beloved husband to cancer. Two years later, her mother succumbed to the dreaded disease.

Ten years after the death of her husband, Mrs. Parks formalized her vision for youth development through the founding of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987, with her friend, Elaine Eason Steele. Since its inception, more than 7,000 students have had a direct benefit of her love, experience and wisdom.

Mrs. Parks sought no public applause or acclaim, yet her life transcended all cultures, is celebrated by the masses and opens a new chapter of courage, dignity, and quality of life for the citizens of the world.

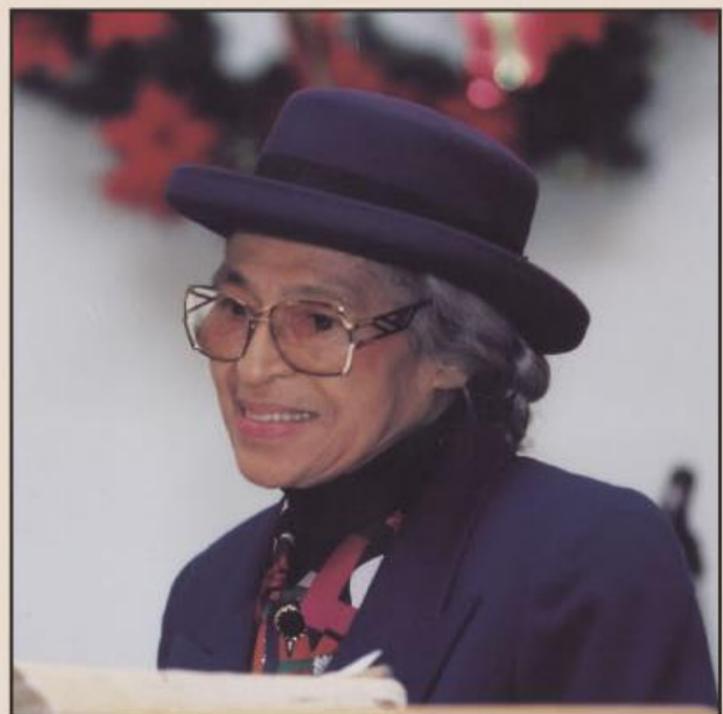
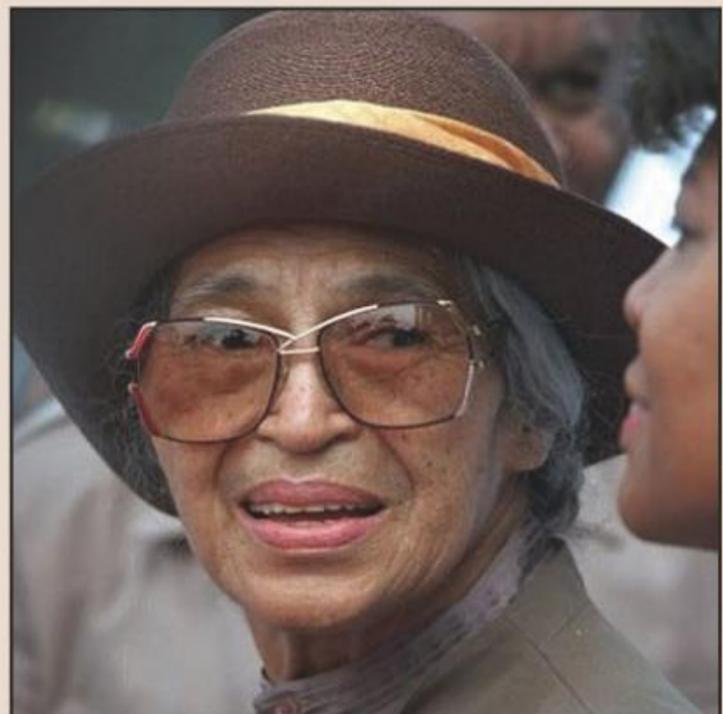
Two of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an U.S. citizen were awarded to Mrs. Parks. They are the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1996 and the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, 1999.

Other Awards include: SCLC Annual Rosa Parks Freedom Award; NAACP Spingarn Medal, 1979; Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, 1980; Ebony Service Award, 1980; Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize, 1980; The Eleanor Roosevelt Women of Courage Award, Wonder Women Foundation, 1984; Medal of Honor awarded during the 100th birthday celebration of the Statue of Liberty, 1986; Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award, 1987; Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Legislative Achievement Award, 1990; and honored with Day of Recognition by Wayne County Commission.



A published author, Mrs. Parks wrote several books including *“Rosa Parks: My Story”* with Jim Haskins; *“Quiet Strength”* with Gregory J. Reed; *“Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today’s Youth”* with Gregory J. Reed and her latest book *“I am Rosa Parks”* with Jim Haskins.

In quiet dignity, surrounded by close family and friends, a noble chapter in her life came to a close on Monday, October 24, 2005, at 7:20 p.m., in her home in Detroit, Michigan. We commend her to the serenity of peace and the blessing of eternal life.











THE ORDER OF SERVICE  
FOR THE NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION OF  
ROSA LOUISE PARKS

THE PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL ..... MUSICIAN

FAMILY OF MRS. ROSA LOUISE PARKS  
NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION, CO-CHAIRS  
ROSA AND RAYMOND PARKS INSTITUTE OF SELF DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS  
LITURGISTS  
THE BISHOPS  
THE PRESIDING ELDERS  
VISITING CLERGY  
GENERAL OFFICERS

THE SEALING OF THE BIER ..... *"The Lord's Prayer"* ..... Ms. BRENDA JACKSON  
INTERNATIONAL MEZZO-SOPRANO

THE WELCOME AND PURPOSE ..... BISHOP CHARLES H. ELLIS III  
HOST PASTOR, GREATER GRACE TEMPLE

THE RESPONSE ..... HONORABLE JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS 6<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT

THE LITANY CELEBRATION

LITURGIST: *Come let us worship our God and rejoice in the midst of death.*  
CONGREGANTS: *We come to worship God! We come to celebrate life!*  
LITURGIST: *This is the call to worship the God of life and the God of death.*  
CONGREGANTS: *All praises to God for the life of Mother Rosa Parks.*  
ALL TOGETHER: *Worship! Celebrate! Celebrate and Worship!*

THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION ..... *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* ..... Ms. STEFAENEE MORRISON

THE INVOCATION ..... DR. CHARLES G. ADAMS  
PASTOR, HARTFORD MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT ..... JOB 14:1-6 ..... REVEREND BERNICE KING  
ATLANTA, GA

THE GOSPEL ..... JOHN 14:1-6 ..... REVEREND NORMAN V. OSBORNE  
PRESIDING ELDER, AME CHURCH

THE EPISTLE ..... 1<sup>ST</sup> THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 ..... BISHOP GREGORY G.M. INGRAM

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC ..... ST. MATTHEWS AME CHURCH CHOIR

THE ORDER OF SERVICE  
FOR THE NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION OF  
ROSA LOUISE PARKS

THE REMARKS ..... MODERATOR, JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH  
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GREATER GRACE TEMPLE AND OAK GROVE AME CHURCH

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BISHOP T. D. JAKES, SENIOR PASTOR, THE POTTER'S HOUSE

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC ..... COMBINED CHOIRS  
GREATER GRACE TEMPLE AND OAK GROVE AME CHURCH

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(PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MRS. PARKS)  
THE HONORABLE DAMON J. KEITH, NATIONAL VICTORY CELEBRATION CO-CHAIR

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... MS. ARETHA FRANKLIN  
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ARTIST

HER LIFE STORY ..... *(Read In Silence)*

THE SERMONIC SOLO ..... MS. SANTITA JACKSON

WORDS OF COMFORT ..... REVEREND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR.  
FOUNDER, RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION

THE EULOGY ..... THE RIGHT REVEREND PHILIP ROBERT COUSIN  
PRESIDING PRELATE, 4<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT, AME CHURCH

THE RECESSIONAL AND POSTLUDE ..... "Oh Freedom" ..... MUSICIAN

