



SR0054

LRB101 07903 MST 52958 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in
3 Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards)
4 McCauley; and

5 WHEREAS, Rosa McCauley married Raymond Parks on December
6 18, 1932; and

7 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was a member of the Montgomery chapter
8 of the NAACP and was an active volunteer for the Montgomery
9 Voters League; and

10 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955 in
11 Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat on a bus
12 to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became
13 legendary; and

14 WHEREAS, The arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to comply
15 with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for a boycott
16 of Montgomery buses led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;
17 approximately 42,000 African Americans participated in the
18 boycott which lasted for 381 days; and

19 WHEREAS, On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme
20 Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was

1 unconstitutional, and Montgomery officials were ordered to
2 desegregate buses on December 20, 1956; and

3 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of the Modern
4 Day Civil Rights Movement", because her refusal to surrender
5 her seat in compliance with Montgomery's segregation law
6 inspired the civil rights movement, which has resulted in the
7 breakdown of numerous legal barriers and the lessening of
8 profound discrimination against African Americans in this
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, The courage and conviction of Rosa Parks laid the
11 foundation for equal rights for all Americans and for the Civil
12 Rights Act of 1964; and

13 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks
14 Institute for Self Development in 1987 with Elaine Easton
15 Steele to motivate and direct youth to achieve their highest
16 potential through the Pathways to Freedom program; and

17 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards
18 including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's
19 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor,
20 the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian, and the
21 Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award; and

1 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the cause of
2 human rights and truly embodies the love of humanity and
3 freedom; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare Monday,
6 February 4, 2019 as "Rosa Parks Day" in the State of Illinois
7 and urge all Illinoisans to pay homage to this great American
8 Woman on the anniversary of her birth; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we commemorate the legacy of Rosa Parks to
10 inspire all people of Illinois and the nation to stand up for
11 freedom and the principles of the Constitution.