

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 273

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2005

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Whereas on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested for refusing to obey a busdriver's order to give up her seat on a city bus for a White passenger boarding the bus, as required by city ordinance;

Whereas outrage over the arrest of Rosa Parks initiated a meeting that weekend between the Reverend Ralph

Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Ann Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also known as the NAACP;

Whereas this meeting resulted in the announcement of a large-scale boycott against Montgomery city buslines;

Whereas ministers voiced the communal outrage over Rosa Parks's arrest during Sunday services, unifying the African American community in Montgomery as the ministers conveyed the message of the boycott;

Whereas members of the community continued to spread the news of the boycott by disseminating leaflets encouraging participation in the boycott;

Whereas through nonviolent means and the support of ministers and African American and White citizens alike, the Montgomery bus boycott and the beginning of the civil rights movement gained national attention;

Whereas Rosa Parks became and remains an icon of pride and dignity, establishing a standard that has continued through the civil rights movement;

Whereas Martin Luther King, Jr., became the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, also known as the MIA, and helped organize the boycott with other civil rights leaders, such as Ralph Abernathy; and

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary
4 of the Montgomery bus boycott; and

5 (2) recognizes the historical significance of the
6 Montgomery bus boycott to the United States.

 Passed the House of Representatives December 6,
2005.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.