

attention to an outstanding individual who is making a real difference in the lives of children in my district. He is Principal Tom Leyden of the Plano Independent School District in Plano, Texas.

Tom Leyden was recently named the Texas principal of the year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. This honor qualifies Mr. Leyden for eligibility as the National Principal of the Year, which will be announced in October.

Tom Leyden is a shining reminder of what a difference our local officials can make in the lives of our children. I am proud to represent Tom Leyden, and I plan to do everything I can to make sure we help all the Tom Leydens of America by keeping the Federal Government out of their way and putting education back in the hands of local principals, parents, and teachers.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY BILL

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for too long, our educational system has been handcuffed by the misguided ideas of Federal bureaucrats. For too long our children have been used as pawns in this political game.

The time for that to end is now. It is time for us to stop the partisanship, to stop the bickering, and roll up our sleeves and get to work. We cannot, as a Nation, allow our children to become adults without the tools to succeed. The key to unlocking the powers of first-rate education is the freedom to make choices, giving parents the power to choose their children's education.

Let us pass the Education Flexibility bill, which was announced just moments ago by the chairman of the committee. It will be on the floor this week. Let us pass the bill to allow the States to move past bureaucratic rules that actually inhibit success and bring new and innovative solutions to their classrooms.

This bill will expand education flexibility to all 50 States. It will empower every school district to move past the bureaucracy and do what they believe is best to help their students learn. Let us return education decision-making to those who know what is best for America's students. We will find them in each student's community, not in Washington.

SUPPORT DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) at a press conference for the Dollars to the Classroom Act. And also present were students from around the country and teachers and administrators speaking in support of the bill.

Unfortunately, as the system is set up now, as little as 65 cents on the dollar makes it to the classroom. That is wrong. Many children are being short-changed. Congress must downsize bureaucracy to ensure students get the best possible education.

What the Dollars to the Classroom Act would do is to mandate that at least 95 percent of Federal education dollars end up where it is needed most. Teachers, and most importantly our children, will be direct beneficiaries of the spending, and not the bureaucrats. And under this legislation each school would receive an increase of \$10,000.

Cole Allen is an 8th grader. He is from Pennsylvania. He spoke at today's conference about the need for more money in the classroom. He said his geography book is titled "World Geography Today," but it should be called "World Geography 13 Years Ago."

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Mr. Speaker, we need the money in the schools for the books.

HONORING EMILY GREGOR OF THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know of my strong support for trails throughout this beautiful Nation. No trail is more dear to my heart though than the Buckeye Trail in the great State of Ohio. Today I would like to pay tribute to Emily Gregor, an icon of the Buckeye Trail. Emily Gregor's devotion to the preservation of the trail as a long-time member of the Buckeye Trail Association spans the entire 40 years of its existence. She has served as its historian and legislative coordinator and is its president for 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I often tell people that the greatest legacy we can leave is not what we put in our will, but what we put in our communities. On the 40th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail Association, I today would like to commend Emily Gregor for the legacy she has given and continues to give to the people of Ohio through the Buckeye Trail. Her tireless commitment to the trail will be cherished for generations to come as they explore the wonders of nature in the great State of Ohio.

OUR SERVICEMEN HAVE OUR TOTAL, UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, there is a 20-year-old airman out there who is working incredible hours, 7 days a week, all for a cause that he trusts is just.

He puts his faith in his government, in officers above him and in the people

of the United States that he will only be put in harm's way for noble and worthy reasons.

That 20-year-old is stationed in Aviano, Italy, and elsewhere across the globe. He does not have time to read the New York Times or to watch CNN to see how the war is going because he is too busy doing his job, making sure that the planes being flown in actual combat missions are as safe and effective as humanly possible. He is unaware of the debates going on in Congress about the wisdom of our policy in the Balkans. He cares little for politics, but he does expect his political leaders to put one concern above all others, do whatever it takes to see that our mission is successful.

We are only Americans now, and that 20-year-old airman and all of his fellow servicemen have our total, unqualified, full support. May God bring him home safely.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

AUTHORIZING AWARDING OF GOLD MEDAL TO ROSA PARKS

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 573) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 573

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley.

(2) Rosa Parks is honored as the "first lady of civil rights" and the "mother of the freedom movement"; her quiet dignity ignited the most significant social movement in the history of the United States.

(3) Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became legendary.

(4) News of Rosa Parks' arrest resulted in 42,000 African Americans boycotting Montgomery buses for 381 days beginning on December 5, 1955, until the bus segregation laws were changed on December 21, 1956.

(5) The United States Supreme Court ruled on November 13, 1956, that the Montgomery segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses.

(6) The civil rights movement led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which broke down the barriers of legal discrimination against African Americans and made equality before the law a reality for all Americans.

(7) Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards and accolades for her efforts on behalf of racial harmony, including the Springarn Award, the NAACP's highest honor for civil rights contributions, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, and the first International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

(8) Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the cause of universal human rights and truly embodies the love of humanity and freedom.

(9) Rosa Parks was the first woman to join the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP, was an active volunteer for the Montgomery Voters League, and in 1987 cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development.

(10) Rosa Parks, by her quiet courage, symbolizes all that is vital about nonviolent protest; she endured threats of death and persisted as an advocate for the simple, basic lessons she taught the Nation and from which the Nation has benefited immeasurably.

(11) Rosa Parks, who has resided in the State of Michigan since 1957, has become a living icon for freedom in America.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to award to Rosa Parks, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design honoring Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the mother of the civil rights

movement, Rosa Parks. As an Alabamian, I am proud to stand side by side with my friends on both sides of the aisle and pay respects to a native Alabamian and a civil rights heroine. Before saying more, I would also like to commend the bill's author, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), for obtaining well over 290 signatures necessary to move this bill to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks is an American heroine because she is an ordinary citizen with extraordinary courage. She had the fortitude to claim for herself the most ordinary, the most basic of civil rights, to be treated fairly and equally.

She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1913. She was the first child of James and Leona McCauley.

Rosa Parks took a heroic stand and refused to give up her seat on a bus. Montgomery buses were boycotted for 381 days. After court cases, legislative upheaval, the bus segregation laws were changed on December 21, 1956.

An aside to that, Mr. Speaker, is that Dr. Martin Luther King was appointed spokesman for the bus boycott and taught nonviolence to all the participants, and there were over 40,000 participants in that boycott.

But more importantly, Rosa Parks led a prairie fire for freedom which helped ignite and inspire the civil rights movement. Ultimately, this act of courage played a major role in breaking down the barriers of legal discrimination and continues to play a role in making equality an imperative goal in America.

Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards for her efforts on behalf of racial harmony. Among them, the Springarn Award, the NAACP's highest honor for civil rights contributions, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, and the first International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the cause of universal human rights. She truly embodies the spirit of respect for humanity and personal freedom that is central to the American ideal.

Rosa Parks by her quiet courage symbolizes all that is great in the American spirit. She endured threats of death in defending and demanding for all the most basic rights embodied in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This Nation has benefited immeasurably from her heroic efforts, and the U.S. Congress is proud to celebrate her achievements by awarding her the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) be permitted to control 10 minutes of the time allocated to me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every now and then God places in our midst an angel, a human being of extraordinary character and immeasurable compassion with the energy and courage to fuel their undying commitment to justice. Rosa Parks is that person. Rosa Parks is that angel, a woman of divine inspiration who, on December 1, 1955, refused to move from the white only section of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. When she was told to move to the back of the bus, she was arrested.

Rosa Parks was a working woman, a seamstress of very modest means. She had neither political power nor influence. She simply had the courage of her convictions. Mrs. Parks did not move to the back of the bus. She took a stand.

She was arrested. Her arrest sparked a revolution on December 5, 1955. The defiant spirit of Rosa Parks ignited the long suppressed longing for freedom, and the contagious sparks of new possibilities sailed through the Montgomery air. Men, women and children decided they would no longer suffer the indignities of a city that discriminated against them, marginalized them, brutalized and disrespected them.

Montgomery's most egregious manifestation of segregation was in public transportation, in particular the bus company where African Americans were cursed and sometimes assaulted by bus drivers without provocation, forced to board from the rear door after depositing the fare in the driver's box and then often left behind after paying their fare, strictly forbidden from ever sitting in the first four rows reserved for whites.

Black pride and self-determination took hold. Blacks got off the bus and the plantation. Blacks carpooled, blacks walked, blacks found a way to get around without bus transportation. They boycotted.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP).

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage and to applaud Congress for putting this resolution before us to honor Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks changed the course of history when, on December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat to a white man. The fact is I would like to think that there were white folks in her city that wanted things to change, that wanted equal opportunity and equal access and equal rights to all parts of society in her community, but they did not act.

Rosa Parks did act, and she had the courage, the quiet courage, to make a profound difference. By her actions, she encouraged and created a movement that was largely credited for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Today we still do not have the harmony that we seek in this country. We are still not a country that has figured out how to live together with all the good and best interests for every child, every individual in this country.

Rosa Parks served as an inspiration to us in 1955. I hope that by awarding this congressional medal she will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us and to our children.

Many times today people do not believe that one person can make a difference. They feel cynical and they feel hopeless and helpless, and because of that, they do not act.

So, as we award this medal, maybe what Rosa Parks did will give us all courage and confidence that one person does make a difference and that if we are to have equality and a common sense of good and love across racial lines, that all of us have to stand up and take that action, that courageous action that Rosa Parks did.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the other 329 Members of the 106th Congress who joined me in unprecedented numbers to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the Honorable Rosa Parks, a human being extraordinaire.

This is my first bill that I will pass from Congress, and there is no better way for me to inaugurate my service in the United States Congress than to introduce a bill that will give a Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Her courage propelled her to great heights. She is profiled as the leader of the century by major news media universally.

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Her selflessness embraced the spirit of the British National Anthem: "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty."

Mrs. Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, sought to, tried to validate this pledge of ours, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all people. Her steadfastness and unmovable decision revisited the words of Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, in his Gettysburg Address, that we would have a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Mrs. Parks, thank you very much for watching this long-delayed honor by the United States Congress in celebration of your 86th birthday present. What a great present, Mrs. Parks, for the United States Congress to give to you in this particular way.

I am grateful for your steadfastness, your perseverance, the kind of contribution that you made to America almost 44 years ago, and it is because of your good work and your determination, the fact that you sacrificed yourself and went to jail. And a woman that was not of color, Mrs. Virginia Foster Durr, who was known as the matron of the civil rights movement, bailed Mrs. Parks out, which underscored that there were people who were not people

of color necessarily who came to the forefront to ensure that justice prevails.

So, Mrs. Parks, while you watch this live from California and while both you and I are alive to see it pass, I want to publicly, for America, thank you very much, Rosa Parks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members are reminded that their remarks are to be addressed only to the Chair.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to a great civil rights leader, Rosa Parks. It was a great honor to see Rosa Parks at the State of the Union address earlier this year. Looking up at her in the gallery, sitting there with the First Lady and other distinguished guests, it gave me great pride and reminded me of what America is and how great it is.

The Gold Medal is a fitting tribute. Congress has honored more than 100 great Americans and world citizens, including George Washington and most recently Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela. It is the highest award that can be given by Congress and we know that she deserves the Gold Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to a great civil rights leader as we prepare to vote on awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Her quiet, non-violent refusal to adhere to racist segregation helped break open the flood gates of freedom in this country. That act put us all on the road to a more equal society and to an integrated society.

It was a great honor to see Rosa Parks in person as a guest of the President at the State of the Union address earlier this year. Looking up at her in the gallery, sitting with the First Lady and other distinguished guests, gave me great pride and reminded me why America is the land of great potential.

The Gold Medal is a fitting tribute. Congress has honored more than 100 great Americans and world citizens, including George Washington and most recently Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela. The highest award given by Congress to civilians, it is my honor to be a co-sponsor and supporter of this legislation.

Since that historic day on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, when she took a stand against a fundamentally unfair and immoral system, Rosa Parks has served as a source of inspiration and courage to those who continue the struggle for civil rights and equality for all Americans. She taught us that one individual can make a profound difference, that one individual can bring down the walls of division in our society, that one individual can clear the path to a better tomorrow. Rosa Parks has earned this medal.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution of the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal for Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to this Nation.

Rosa Parks is known as both the first lady of civil rights and the mother of the civil rights movement.

She began to earn these titles back in 1955 for her courageous refusal to comply with the Montgomery, Alabama, law which required her to give up her seat on a public bus for a white man. For this, she was thrown in jail. However, an interesting historic footnote is that Rosa Parks was ejected from a bus further back in time, in 1943, for entering through the front door instead of the back door as then prescribed by the law.

To protest the segregated public bus system and Rosa Parks' arrest, a fledgling civil rights group, the Montgomery Improvement Association, organized a historic boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama buses, led by a young civil rights leader named Martin Luther King, Jr. The boycott lasted 381 days.

Thanks to Rosa Parks' conviction and the steady determination of the civil rights movement, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Montgomery, Alabama, segregated seating law and the buses were legally integrated.

Mr. Speaker, many history books stop there, but I believe it is important to note that Rosa Parks' courageous stand was not without cost to her and to her family. Rosa Parks was harassed continuously. She lost her job. Her husband lost his job and suffered a nervous breakdown. Rosa Parks and her husband could not find work anywhere near Montgomery, so they moved to Detroit where her husband had to be hospitalized further.

Ultimately, Rosa Parks began working for the congressional office of our colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and she still remains active to this day in the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, as we fast forward to today, I find it amazing how much we take for granted thanks to Rosa Parks' courageous stand almost 45 years ago. For this reason, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I congratulate my colleague from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for introducing it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Mrs. Rosa Parks. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King once said that anybody can be great because anybody can serve. You do not have to have a college degree to serve. You do not have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You do not have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.

In 1955, at the time of Mrs. Parks' heroic act, I was 6 years old, a daughter of a skycap and a factory worker, a student of the civil rights movement and now, thank God, a Congresswoman,

able to vote to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. I only hope that many young people, African-American, Caucasian, Asian, Indian, Hispanic, brown, black, white or yellow, will continue to be inspired by the integrity and work of Mrs. Rosa Parks and will be willing to stand and make a public gesture.

Mr. BACHUS, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 1 minute to my fellow Alabaman and friend, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD)

Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. Speaker, I have the great good fortune of having known Mrs. Rosa Parks for many years. It was in my congressional district that she lived and it was in my congressional district that she refused to move to the back of the bus.

Rosa Parks' courage ignited a movement. Her courage provided the spark for a movement that was smoldering. I am a personal benefactor of Mrs. Parks' act and I am very grateful to her.

Rosa Parks was an ordinary citizen who performed an extraordinary act which changed America in a positive way forever. Rosa Parks is an American hero. As my Spelman College sisters would say, she is an American she-ro.

To Mrs. Parks, I say thank you for not moving to the back of the bus. Thank you for a lifetime of service to civil rights. I am humbled and deeply grateful for this opportunity to personally say to you I appreciate your courage.

Mr. Speaker, America is a better place because Rosa Parks came its way.

Ms. CARSON, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), in whose district Mrs. Parks is now a legal resident.

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for yielding me this time on this very special day as we honor one of America's greatest heroes, she-roses, I might add, Mrs. Rosa Parks. As was mentioned, Mrs. Parks lives in my district in Michigan. She came to my district as she left Alabama and for all of these years has been a hero of courage and inspiration for all of us, near and afar.

I am here today to add my voice to those who have said, let us award Mrs. Parks a medal that is long overdue, the highest honor that this body can offer, the Congressional Gold Medal. I am here further to ask for something again. Mrs. Parks in 1987 established the Raymond and Rosa Parks Institute in Michigan. She cared for and assisted hundreds of children across America to learn about civil rights, to learn about their history.

We are asking in this budget year, fiscal year 2000, in the Labor-HHS budget for \$3 million for the Raymond

and Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development so she can continue inspiring and motivating children. I hope this body will accept and adopt the appropriation. It is just a small amount of what has already been put in through her courage, through her work and through the funds that we have collected over the last 10 years. Let us support the Raymond and Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development so that our children can know, as we have lived through this 20th Century, that as we move forward, let us take the spirit of Raymond and Rosa Parks with us and fund the institute adequately.

Mr. BACHUS, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. Speaker, over 40 years ago, Rosa Parks, a Montgomery, Alabama seamstress, showed how one woman, no matter what her background, can light a spark which changes the world. By refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man on a dark December day in 1955, Rosa Parks defied the oppressive legal system of segregation and set off a bus boycott that became one of the first victories in the civil rights revolution of the '50s and the '60s. For this brave stand for liberty and her many other contributions to our Nation and her community, she definitely deserves the Congressional Gold Medal which we are voting to award her today.

Her heroic action resulted in her arrest and the loss of her job, but the ensuing struggle resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling just a year later which declared that the Montgomery segregation law was unconstitutional and that Montgomery officials must desegregate their bus system.

This courageous act changed her life and our Nation forever, but it did not change the character and the humility of Rosa Parks, who still shuns the spotlight and has never sought the recognition which she so richly deserves. After moving to Detroit in 1957, in which she continued to work hard for the many causes which benefited both our Nation and her community, she worked for the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), running his Detroit office until her retirement in 1988.

Rosa Parks also founded the Detroit-based Raymond and Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development, which helps young people gain self-esteem through a variety of programs, as well as assists them with their education.

By honoring Rosa Parks today, we are also endorsing her message which she so eloquently addressed in her book "Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed a Nation." It ends with a plea for people of all races to work together for a world free of violence and racism, where all races and religions unite to improve the quality of life for everyone. Amen.

Passage of this bill will be our contribution to her legacy today.

Ms. WATERS, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for yielding, and I thank her and the sponsors of this bill for putting it forward at this time.

This body seeks to honor a woman upon whom honors have been heaped. It is worth asking, why so many honors? What is her personal appeal, beyond what she has accomplished? It is worth asking why it is that this is such a revered woman of our times. I think it is for much the same reason that we honor Nelson Mandela.

Three reasons: First, courage against overwhelming odds; two, the action that few would have taken, remember, this was Alabama, circa 1955; and, three, modesty. She claimed to be too tired to move to the back of the bus. The fact is she had complained of segregation and had spoken of being tired of segregation for years.

It was bravery, Mr. Speaker. Two huge and historic effects flow from her act. Her act led to the Supreme Court decision barring segregation in public transportation and, of course, she sparked an entire movement, the Montgomery bus movement.

Those of us who participated in the sit-in movement regard the day of the college sit-ins as when that movement began. In point of fact, that movement began when Rosa Parks sat where she insisted on sitting. The Congressional Gold Medal cannot add glory to a woman who has never sought it. We can only express our appreciation through this medal today.

Mr. BACHUS, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1445

Mr. GILMAN, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I am pleased to join today with the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) as a cosponsor of this long-overdue legislation honoring Rosa Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal. Mrs. Parks is a courageous woman, a woman who stood up for justice and equality, and in the process, changed the course of our Nation's history.

In the early 1950s, blacks were still facing the hardships inflicted by segregation. The term "separate but equal" was not really equal, but rather a loophole used to deny rights to blacks. This began to change, though, in Montgomery, Alabama on December 5, 1955 when Mrs. Parks, then a passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on that bus. She was promptly arrested for violating a city law requiring that whites and blacks sit in

separate rows on buses. Mrs. Parks' courage triggered a boycott of the entire Montgomery bus system. That lasted for almost a full year, until the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated seating on the city's buses unconstitutional.

While Mrs. Parks' refusal to relinquish her seat on that December day and the ensuing boycott ended in success, the effects of her actions were much more far-reaching. Specifically, the boycott's success triggered the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and in addition, it paved the way for the boycott organization's President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to press forward for full racial equality.

Mrs. Parks' efforts were integral to the civil rights movement, and it is my pleasure to be associated with this legislation presenting Rosa Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON); my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the remaining civil rights leader that worked with Dr. King and Rosa Parks for many years, and to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol.

Now, there are several reasons why Rosa Parks' name can be lifted up with such eloquence today. First is that she developed this theory that applies to every human being that struggles for justice: "I am only one person, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something." For her to sit down on the bus that day was an enormously courageous act that still thrills the world when they realize this seamstress had determined what she would do, not with Dr. King, not with the civil rights movement, not with the NAACP, not with anyone.

Secondly, she, by her act, brought Dr. King into the movement, and we will have more on that very shortly. But that an oppressed people could take upon themselves to change the de jure and de facto status of race relations by their own action was thought to be impossible by many at that time.

Finally, it was the theory of nonviolence that a woman faced with violent oppressors could say, "You can do whatever you want." Remember, the bus driver begged her to please sit down. And the theory of nonviolence later enunciated by Dr. Martin Luther King makes the Gold Medal a very appropriate response to her today.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard speaker after speaker who has described how Rosa Parks' quiet and courageous act changed America and redirected the course of history, and for that we are all for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), one of the leaders of that movement.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and col-

league from Alabama, my native State, for yielding me this time.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks sat down on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama and refused to give up her seat to a white man. By sitting down, Rosa Parks was standing up. With dignity, with pride, and with one simple defining act, she began a nonviolent revolution in the American south, a nonviolent revolution that swept across America and swept aside segregation and the laws that divided us into two nations, one black and one white.

As a 15-year-old boy growing up in rural Alabama, 50 miles from Montgomery, I was deeply inspired, moved and touched by this simple act of civil disobedience. Rosa Parks taught me and an entire generation the power that one individual can have in standing up for what is right and for what is just.

The history books of the civil rights movement will recall Rosa Parks as one of the founders of the new America. This woman, this one woman, was tracked down by the spirit of history. She saw indignity and she exposed it. She saw inequality and she confronted it. She saw injustice and she defeated it.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and appropriate that we honor Rosa Parks by awarding her the Congressional Gold Medal. By honoring Rosa Parks, we honor all of us. We honor America. We honor unborn generations.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, Congressional Gold Medals are awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to our Nation or humanity. Why bestow this honor on a woman who refused to give up her seat in the white section of a segregated Montgomery bus? The answer is very simple. Rosa Parks' selfless fortitude became the symbol of a commitment to freedom, equality and justice that paved the way to the end of legal segregation in America.

As we salute our matriarch of civil rights, I am reminded of the words of Dr. King: "We are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."

Mrs. Parks recognized that in order for our Nation to move from what it has been to what it can be, our garment of destiny must be tightly woven with the policies of justice and inclusion as opposed to discrimination and separation. Again, I congratulate Mrs. Parks for her heroism, and challenge all Americans to embrace her concept of freedom and equality for all people.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 20 minutes on this measure, 10 minutes to myself and 5 minutes to each of the gentlewomen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I think every American over 45 years of age remembers the heroic stand that Rosa Parks took. That stand inspired the Nation, and the inspiration of the Nation ultimately inspired Congress—both the House and the Senate.

She did this at the beginning of the last half of the decade of the 1950s. She set an example of what one person can do to change a Nation. And she did change a Nation, because from her act of resistance on a segregated bus and the organization that followed led to the role of Dr. Martin Luther King. Rosa Parks gave recognition to all who might have doubted about conditions in the South.

Of course, the Supreme Court ruled that what she fought was unconstitutional, and that was one of the many particular state segregation laws that the Supreme Court of the United States struck down in the decade of the 1950s and the 1960s.

There was still going to be a longer struggle ahead. I was on the Senate staff at that time working on these bills. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was certainly one of them. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was another.

Rosa Parks' defiance showed that black Americans—African-Americans—could organize themselves, could do the right thing in line with the Constitution. That is exactly what her inspiration meant. Whether it was segregation in the South or in the North, or in the West, or in the East, no group would stand for any form of discrimination against any group because of their race, color or creed.

She began with the defiance of one human being. She deserves the Congressional Gold Medal. Few Americans have had an impact which touched this country and put it on the right course as has Rosa Parks.

Mr. Speaker, I would certainly hope that all Members will support this particular resolution. It is a vital example of the impact one can have in the legislative process. Martin Luther King had a great impact, but he would not have had that impact if it were not for the actions of Rosa Parks, showing that there will be no more discrimination on the buses of Montgomery, Alabama.

What Rosa Parks did is a good lesson in civics for every American: one person can make a difference in our government. She did. She has. We should recognize that significant accomplishment which changed our nation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me this time. I want to commend her, and I want to commend the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for her leadership and persistence in this bill.

I rise today to join my colleagues in this House in paying tribute to Rosa Parks, the mother of the civil rights movement. All of us will recite the facts, but they cannot be recited enough.

On a cold day in December 1955, Rosa Parks decided that she would sit down in order to stand up and stand up for America. She sat down to stand up for equal rights for all across this Nation. The quiet "no" of this gentle southern lady to the demand that she give up her bus seat to a white man gave a new meaning to the word "courage."

The courage of this ordinary seamstress who worked in a department store pricked the conscience of the Nation in an extraordinary way. As the bus boycott mounted, activity came to a screeching halt and the world stopped and paid attention.

Rosa Parks spoke quietly, but the whole world heard and understood that it was indeed time for a change. She took a stand that will be forever remembered and appreciated by people all across this Nation. And thanks to Rosa Parks, I now stand proudly as a Congresswoman here, able to pay tribute to her and to do business for the American people.

□ 1500

I intend later to vote, as I hope all of my colleagues will, for the Congressional Medal of Honor to go to a most worthy American. Few people are deserving of such an honor. Rosa Parks indeed is.

I again commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. JULIA CARSON) for introducing this measure and being persistent, and because of that we are here today. All of us should pass this unanimously.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am really delighted to be here as this resolution comes before us. I was one of the original cosponsors, and I want to add my accolades to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for introducing the legislation and persevering, on both sides of the aisle, so we have a bipartisan measure before us.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks, the mother of the civil rights movement, with one simple act of defiance in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks set off a revolution that made this country live up to its constitutional ideals.

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, proclaimed his famous "I have a dream speech" atop the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he lay before America a vision of a society free of hatred and inequality. Rosa Parks provided the initial spark for this broad movement on December 1, 1955, by bravely refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger after a long day of work.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate her courage with the passage of legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to this remarkable woman. Her action helped to trigger the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks' simple refusal brought her, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the arduous struggle for equality to the attention of our Nation.

In a later interview, Mrs. Parks stated that during critical moments on the bus she felt determined to take the opportunity "to let it be known that I did not want to be treated in that manner, and that people had endured it for far too long."

The leadership, confidence, and faith that she displayed was a glorious achievement. Rosa Parks' courageous act was one of tremendous significance. Her outstanding accomplishment deserves to be recognized by a Congressional Gold Medal.

I am proud to join with my colleagues today in support of H.R. 573, recognizing the contribution that Rosa Parks has made to our society. Today we join together to salute her courage. But let us also renew our commitment to work together for a more just and equitable society.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Tavis Smiley, who is a great commentator across the country, said something last week that I will never forget. He said that each of us must live for a cause, and not just because. Rosa Parks emulates that spirit in a very profound way, and Tavis Smiley does, too.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the State of Texas (Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for her eloquence and for her leadership, and to the ranking member and the chairman, I thank them both for their guidance on this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, is it not a great day that we rise to the Floor of the House in a bipartisan and collaborative way to acknowledge Rosa Parks, to give her her due, the Congressional Gold Medal? It is important that we acknowledge that when Rosa Parks sat down, for all of the young people of America who were born after this most heroic act, in a segregated Alabama, almost frightened for her life, America won.

The most important thing that happened, and my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) has lived it in her life, is that we infused into America the best of what America stands for, and that is, the human resolve to change what is evil and what is wrong.

Forty-two thousand people entered into a Montgomery boycott of the buses because of the quiet spirit of Rosa Parks. Again, I say to the young

people, when Rosa Parks sat down, America won.

So today I am most honored to be able to stand and join my colleagues in acknowledging that many of us would not be here today, would not be on the Floor of the House, would not have the opportunity, had Rosa Parks not sparked the infusion of energy that brought about the civil rights movement in this country, that helped to gel it, that helped to give those who were moving towards it the courage to stand up and be counted.

We would not have had the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Affirmative Action Executive order of Richard Nixon, the opening of doors of institutions of higher learning, none of that would have occurred without Rosa Parks.

So I say to Rosa, wherever she might be today, my sister, the mother of civil rights, thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand free in America and to stand with my brothers and sisters today.

Rosa Parks said in her book, when she decided not to stand up and to remain in her seat, it was not a selfish viewpoint. She said, I did not feel any fear. All I felt was tired, tired of being pushed around, tired of seeing the bad treatment and disrespect of children, Mr. Speaker, women, and men, just because of the color of their skin.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to now stand up for Rosa Parks as she stood up for all of us to win. With this vote and this honor given to Rosa Parks today, America wins always.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with my Colleagues to honor a true American's-hero, Rosa Parks. Today, we come one step closer to giving the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" the honor she is due by voting to award Ms. Park the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Rosa Parks embodies the spirit of American Freedom and is wholly deserving of this honor. Her single act of courage was the catalyst that transformed this land from a nation divided to a nation striving for unity.

Rosa Parks's story is familiar to us all. On December 1, 1955, she boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, paid her fare and took a seat. As the bus got crowded, Ms. Parks was ordered to give up her seat by the bus driver for a white man. She refused and was arrested. Her simple refusal to give up her seat initiated the Montgomery bus boycott that began the Civil Rights Movement.

In her book, *Quiet Strength*, Ms. Parks reflected on her feelings when she refused to give up her seat, "When I sat down on the bus the day I was arrested, I was thinking of going home. I made up my mind quickly about what it was that I had to do, what I felt was right to do . . . I did not feel any fear. . . All I felt was tired. Tired of being pushed around. Tired of seeing the bad treatment and disrespect of children, women and men just because of the color of their skin."

In her quiet manner, Rosa Parks ignited a spark of defiance, of civil disobedience that has been the hallmark of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, we are all grateful that Ms. Parks had the courage and the faith to do what was right.

It is past time that Congress recognizes and honors this American legend. Rosa Parks has earned her place in history as a brave heroine for her lifelong dedication to civil rights.

It is with great honor and privilege that I support H.R. 573, awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor an American legend, Rosa Parks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the chair.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), a young man who has done so much in terms of aiding me in getting this to where we are.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding time to me, and salute her for her work and effort in bringing this matter before the United States House of Representatives. I also appreciate that she called me young. That was very nice; not true, but very nice.

Mr. Speaker, in the 105th Congress we honored Nelson Mandela, the father of the struggle for freedom and equality in South Africa, with Congress' highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. Now, in the 106th Congress, we have the opportunity to bestow a similar honor on Rosa Parks, the mother of the American struggle for freedom, our civil rights movement.

Through the simple act of keeping her seat on a Montgomery bus in 1955, Rosa Parks stood for the hopes of a people and a Nation. In a 1958 speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., said and I quote, "You would never have heard of Martin Luther King if it had not been for Rosa Parks and the humble people of Montgomery, Alabama, who decided to walk in dignity, rather than ride in disgrace."

Rosa Parks symbolizes the greatness in all of us and our ability to rise above our circumstances to achieve the extraordinary. One brave act of humble greatness triggered an avalanche of change which helped our country fulfill its commitment to equal rights for all Americans, regardless of race, regardless of anything.

For her leadership and her example, Rosa Parks deserves to be honored with this Congressional Gold Medal. I am very proud of all of the Members who cosponsored this resolution. I am very proud of all of the Members in both the Democratic and Republican Party who stood with their names for this resolution.

I want to salute my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. JULIA CARSON) for her efforts in bringing this matter to the Floor of the Congress. I want to thank the leadership on the Republican side for helping to bring this to the Congress.

This act today is in the highest tradition of this great body. We salute together, as one voice, the example, the

life, the bravery, the courage, of Rosa Parks, who made this country and everybody in it better.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a lady, and I mean a lady in every sense of the word, Ms. Rosa Parks. Forty years ago Mrs. Parks, in her quiet, gentle way, said enough is enough. Forty years ago Mrs. Parks sat down so others could stand up for freedom, justice, and equality. Forty years ago this gentle lady gave birth to a movement that broke the chains of Jim Crowism and its ugly, cruel, and inhuman ways.

Her actions on that fateful day in December of 1955 set forth a chain of events for which every citizen, black, white, Latino and Asian, Jew and Gentile, everyone of this great country will be forever in her debt.

I cannot express how her act of heroism has impacted my life personally. Growing up in public housing in New York City, she inspired me as a young child to join the fight for freedom and to always stand up for dignity and justice. Her quiet, gentle actions commanded that every man, woman, and child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, not how the Jim Crow regime perceived many or all African Americans to be, less than human.

I do not know where we would have been today without this great woman, for without Ms. Parks there would not have been a Montgomery bus boycott. Without the Montgomery bus boycott there might not have been a Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Without the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, we would not have known Dr. Martin Luther King in the manner that we have known him and the contributions he has made to this great Nation.

Back in 1955 there were only three Members, three African American Members of this body. Now we stand 39 strong, and in large part it is due to this woman. Mr. Speaker, I say that no one is more deserving to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor than Ms. Rosa Parks.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of this measure. I am certainly glad we are doing it in the bipartisan fashion that we are.

We often describe Rosa Parks as a civil rights hero, and as noble as civil rights heroes are, sometimes we forget that they are, in a larger sense, American heroes belonging to all of us. In fact, she is a true American hero, an American hero who has had an impact on all of us simply by one act of not leaving her seat. In doing so, she exploded into society a concept of full

participation into the American institutions, so that not just people would be sitting next to each other on buses, but riding the same cabs, sitting in the same restaurants, and perhaps, most importantly, so children would be sitting next to children in schools.

I know. I entered the school system in Athens, Georgia, in 1962 in an all-white school system. We had white schools and we had black schools. Then when I was in fifth grade, Talmadge Vernell Wilson, the one black child, was in our class. There were four classes, four fifth grade classes, with a black child in each class. There were still white and black schools, but we were integrated. Yet by the time I graduated from high school in 1973, there were no more black schools and no more white schools.

That became ancient history because of the brave determination of people like Rosa Parks. She broke the barriers, and led the way for other boycotts and other icebreakers who would go in and bravely stand up, speak out, sit down, or whatever it took to bring the changes that needed to be made in the 1950s, 1960, and 1970s.

In ancient Rome the tradition of the Cincinnatus, the citizen hero soldier who stood up, who left his plow, fought the war, and then went back to being a citizen, that is what Rosa Parks was, a civilian, a citizen, a nonprofessional who happened to put what was right above her own needs.

As Robert Frost said in his poem, the Road Less Traveled, by not taking the road popular but taking the road less traveled, it made all the difference. By doing the brave thing, the uncomfortable thing, the thing that probably millions wanted to do but perhaps were scared or had reasons not to do, Rosa Parks did, and Mr. Speaker, that made all the difference.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN.)

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

□ 1515

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, to whom God has given much, much is expected. I rise today to say thank you, Mrs. Parks, on behalf of the residents of my district and the people of the State of Florida, for your unselfish commitment to civil rights.

This country is a better place because of her courage. Rosa Parks is a hero. I hope that we consider this Congressional Medal of Honor a first step in finally recognizing Mrs. Parks for her role in our Nation's history.

Mrs. Parks, wherever you are, we love you, we thank you, and we stand on your great shoulders.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply say that it is not ironic that Mrs. Parks, by remaining seated, stood up for all of us and for our right to fair treatment and to equality. For that, we are a better country and a better

people. This is a just and overdue honor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of the time to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. CARSON) for her resolution, and I was honored to work with her to get this resolution to the floor.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the people's House celebrates and honors the courage of one woman, Mrs. Rosa Parks. On December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Her arrest ignited a chain of defiance throughout the South. Perhaps the most important lesson we can all learn of our triumph over segregation is that one person has the power to start a movement to right a wrong.

But today nearly 45 years later is an equally important day, because today marks a day of great reconciliation for our Nation. In 44 years we are transformed from a country bitterly and violently divided along color lines into a country that unites to honor the courage of one black woman.

I am honored to stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives representing the great State of Oklahoma and introducing this resolution, which already has overwhelming bipartisan support, to honor Mrs. Parks. A woman who has been considered a heroine for African-Americans is today a heroine for all Americans.

The United States of America, the greatest democracy the world has ever known, is a country of laws, not of men. However, our laws have not always protected all of its citizens.

The South's "Jim Crow" laws oppressed its African-American citizens and undermined the very spirit of our democracy. Although segregation subverted the integrity of equal justice under law, it cannot diminish the most indelible element of democracy: that one man, one woman can stand in the face of injustice and change a Nation. This is the legacy of Mrs. Parks.

Often courage is not deliberate, but rather quiet, unexpected, and subtle. Frequently, maybe daily, we all face simple dilemmas that require us to decide to either follow the pack or forge our own path.

It would have been easy enough for Mrs. Parks to get up and take a back row seat. It would have been simple enough for her to comply with the status quo and relinquish her seat. After all, it was only a seat in a bus, a bus she took back and forth every day. It would have been easy enough.

However, I believe true courage and heroism does not necessarily emerge from the monumental challenges of life but rather from the simple ones. It is easy to let an insult go, easy to yield in an argument, easy to acquiesce, and it would have been easy to give up a seat on the bus in Alabama in 1955, but we are here today to honor a woman who chose not to make the easy choice.

It is the people who choose not to make the easy decisions who change hearts, who change minds, who change history. We should all have the courage not to make the easy choices, for true democracy depends on those who choose their own path.

Democracy is a fragile concept. It is one that rests equally on the shoulders of each individual. Therefore, if one person's liberty is threatened, then everyone's liberty is at risk.

People like Mrs. Parks ensure democracy for all of us, because without them we risk submitting to the simple challenges and slowly surrendering the freedoms we all hold so dear.

I am proud and grateful for Mrs. Parks' past achievement and tenacious disposition, but I am also proud and inspired by the task we undertake today. By supporting the commemoration of Mrs. Parks' accomplishments with a Gold Medal of Honor, we are not only honoring her past achievements, but we also celebrate our present gratitude.

Because when Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat that evening on a bus in Alabama, she stood up not only for the civil rights of Southern blacks, but for the civil rights of every red, yellow, brown, black and white American. She did not bend under the formidable pressure democracy can sometimes place on one's shoulders. She stood tall and she stood firm so that we all might stand a little taller and a little prouder.

As the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) said, we all, red, yellow, brown, black, or white, are benefactors of Mrs. Parks' courage. For that, Mrs. Parks, we all say "Thank you."

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time and for her great leadership in bringing this very, very important piece of legislation to the floor.

This is a great day for the House of Representatives. This is a day that brings honor to the work we do here as we honor Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks is the legitimate heir of the founders of our country. I hesitate to say Founding Fathers because in some ways she is a founding mother for all that our country stands for. She is in the tradition of freedom, equality, and of liberty.

How wonderful, how wonderful that this House of Representatives and thus then this Congress of this United States will award her the Gold Medal. Every American who has ever lived and who ever will live owes Rosa Parks a great debt of gratitude for her courage, for her leadership. It did not stop when she changed the course of history in our country. She continues to be a source of inspiration to all of us.

Again, we thank Rosa Parks for her courage and for allowing us the privilege of honoring her.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to myself the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I take this moment to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for her hard work, for her vision, and for the care that she has shown in bringing to us what we should have done a long time ago, the honoring of Rosa Parks in this very special way.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), my colleague, the chair of our committee. I would like to thank him for all of his cooperation, for his support, and for the work that he did to make sure that we got this measure up before this House. I thank him very much for all that he has done to ensure that Rosa Parks is honored.

We seek to honor Rosa Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor because of her love of justice and equality, because of her love of self and her people and all people, because she has helped to save America and pointed the Nation in the right direction after a favorable Supreme Court decision brought to an end the Montgomery bus boycott.

Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she worked for the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), her good friend and our colleague. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for seeing to it that Ms. Parks had food on her table. She stayed there until her retirement.

Now, as if she had not done enough, in February of 1987, along with Mrs. Elaine Eason Steele, Mrs. Rosa Parks co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. The institute, which focuses on social action and economic development among America's youth, is a realization of one of Mrs. Parks' long-awaited dreams.

When we honor Mrs. Rosa Parks, we honor the best in ourselves. If she had not sat down, where would we stand today?

Mr. Speaker, I hope the time the Members of the House have spent on the floor here today will serve as a history lesson to the young people of this Nation. We want them, like Rosa Parks, to be the absolute best human beings they can possibly be.

We would like them and all Americans to dedicate their lives to freedom, justice, and equality for all people. We would like all Americans who have focused today on this history lesson to live for justice, to work for justice, to sacrifice for justice, and if necessary to even die for justice.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, racial prejudice, as the American novelist Pearl Buck once said, "is a shadow over all of us and the shadow is darkest over those who feel it least and allow its evil effects to go on." Fortunately for the United States, this statement does not describe Rosa Parks.

Her courageous, yet simple act, made clear that the evil of racial prejudice could not go on. In an era when words seemed to speak louder than deeds, her small act of defiance spoke volumes—and we are still hearing the reverberations today.

Rosa Parks not only deserves, but has more than earned the Congressional Gold Medal. When I met her recently over tea, it was an amazing—and humbling—event to meet a living legend. Like American heroes before her, she has created a lasting legacy as truly the first lady of civil rights and the mother of the freedom movement. I am honored to have met her and honored to recommend that she receive the Congressional Gold Medal. I am proud that this Congress has taken the initiative to honor this American legend.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep admiration for Ms. Rosa Parks that I support H.R. 573, authorizing the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to her. As most Americans know, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give-up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. It is hard to imagine that up until the 1960s, Americans in the south lived in legal segregation. It took the strength and courage of one seamstress who had a particularly rough day to bring the injuries and injustices that a whole race had felt for decades to the forefront of our national discourse.

Her whole-hearted contribution to the civil rights movement and to the doctrine of non-violent protest was an inspiration to those who had lost hope during such a dark and tense time in American history. By not yielding her seat on that bus, Ms. Parks ignited a fever for change that was not quenched until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That fever started with the Montgomery Improvement Association beginning a bus boycott that grew larger and spread to cities across the country. The nation soon became aware of the social injustices that were being placed on its own citizens. Great civil rights leaders took up Rosa Parks' torch and began fighting for legislation that would repel laws calling for discrimination and unequal treatment.

Rosa Parks' dedication to equality and individual rights strikes at the heart of America's founding principles. It was through her steadfast will and enduring faith in the human spirit that a nation torn by racism and hate was able to see the folly of its misguided actions. Her quiet courage taught us all how to follow our hearts and stand-up for the freedom all Americans deserve. To this day, Ms. Parks embodies freedom and is a living example of individual power. Her actions ultimately culminated in the greatest civil rights movement of the century. After years of social strife and protest, America recognized the need to ensure all citizens equal treatment under the law. At the end of the long, loud struggle that Ms. Parks quietly began, all Americans could legally enjoy the rights that our great Constitution entitles all of us to. For those reasons alone she is a monumental figure and worthy of our deepest praise and thanks.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, anybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve, or theory of thermodynamics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.

In 1955 at the time of Mrs. Parks heroic act, I was six years old, a daughter of a sky cap and factory worker, a student of the Civil Rights Movement, and now thank God a Con-

gresswoman able to vote to award Rosa Parks a Congressional Gold Medal. I only hope that more young people African American, Caucasian, Asian American, Hispanic, American Indian, brown, black, white, or yellow will continue to be inspired by her heroic acts.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 573, a bill to convey the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this measure, and I want to also express my thanks to my Hoosier Colleague Julia Carson for authoring the bill.

I thoroughly agree that Rosa Parks is a living role model for all of us. Her grace and dignity are inspiring, and her simple refusal to accept injustice is deservedly a noted highlight of American history. Rosa Parks is one of the most important icons of the century, and today we honor her living contribution to history.

Rosa Parks committed an act of valor that did not just disturb a community—it sent a wake up call to the nation. The foundations of history are built of simple acts of heroism. Ms. Parks earns her rightful place among the notable for her bravery and commitment. For her accomplishments, bestowing this medal is the least that Congress can do.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks' experience teaches us about endurance, about pride, and about self-respect. The lessons learned from her life should reach everyone, and bring us closer together.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rosa Parks for her role in American History. It is long overdue that the Congress recognize her with the Congressional Gold Medal for her contribution to the Civil Rights Movement.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks stood up for human rights when she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her simple yet enormous act of defiance led to the 382 day Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa Parks stared down racism and hatred by simply saying "No." No to Jim Crow. No to second-class citizenship. No to segregation. By doing so, she said yes to freedom and yes to the principle that "all men are created equal."

We should not think however, that this resistance was easy. Rosa Parks was thrown in jail, harassed, and humiliated. But, this did not stop her from pressing forward. She displayed exemplary courage at a time when it was unsafe for a black woman to do so. She wanted equality not only for African-Americans, but for all Americans.

During this tumultuous time America, Rosa Parks was a beacon of light for our country. Her defiance and the persistence of African-Americans led to the desegregation of public transportation in Montgomery. She has earned her place in history with other civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prior to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Rosa Parks served as the Secretary of the NAACP and later Adviser to the NAACP Youth Council. She tried to vote at a time when it was impossible for African Americans to do so. She was constantly turned away at the polls, but these obstacles did not hinder her pursuit of justice.

Segregation was evil, demeaning, and belittling to our Constitution. Today is our chance to reaffirm our faith in freedom.

This honor should not have taken so much time. We should remember Dr. Martin Luther

King's words in his letter from A Birmingham Jail:

Actually, time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively. More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of good will. . . Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be coworkers with God, and without this 'hard work,' time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.

Rosa Parks lived these words.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have made great strides in equality, but we still have a long way to go. Awarding Rosa Parks a Congressional Gold Medal is the least we can do to recognize her achievements to the Civil Rights Movement. She truly inspired a nation.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of bill H.R. 573 to honor the eternal Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, Rosa Parks. Ms. Parks' humble and courageous resistance on that great day in 1955 served as a catalyst for great change in our nation. Her refusal of "second class citizenship" served as a testimony to her pursuit of equality and justice for all Americans. Ms. Parks' is one of the great figures of modern times, and it is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "altogether fitting and proper" that we repay her dedication with the Congressional Gold Medal.

When they arrested and removed Ms. Parks from that bus in Montgomery, Alabama, she did not know the momentous impact of her actions. She didn't know that her quiet courage would spark the bus boycotts and the emergence of a young minister by the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ultimately, the movement ignited by Ms. Parks led to the monumental civil rights legislation passed by this great body.

Ms. Parks has been recognized by virtually every national organization dedicated to equality and social justice in this nation, yet until today, the U.S. Congress had not extended such an honor. I urge each and every person in this House to vote "yes" to bill H.R. 573. Join me in honoring Rosa Parks, a champion of the Civil Rights Struggle, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in strong support of this legislation to honor one of my heroes and a great American, the venerable Rosa Parks.

On a wintery afternoon in December 1955, Rosa Louise Parks could not have known she would soon become a national symbol and civil rights icon. But in standing her ground and demanding her fair and equal treatment on that bus in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks became the first lady of civil rights and the mother of the freedom movement.

Her simple action and committed resolve that day empowered a people, ignited a movement and changed the course of American history.

The events that followed Ms. Park's protest that day—her arrest, the Montgomery bus boycott, and the eventual integration of the bus system—set the stage for Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Act.

As a young college student, I was inspired by the stories of Ms. Park's courageous action. I traveled to the south as a "freedom rider" in support of the blossoming civil rights movement, and I too was jailed for my actions.

Rosa Parks determination and tenacity that day continues to be an inspiration to all those committed to non-violent protest and change more than 40 years later. She continues to be a symbol and tireless advocate for justice and equality throughout America. She is a priceless lesson on the "power of one."

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks is a national treasure. Our debt to her is great, and awarding her the Congressional Gold Medal is an honor long overdue.

I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to my hero, Rosa Louise Parks.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, 44 years ago this December, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man who wanted it. Rosa Parks didn't know that she was making history. And she certainly had no idea that she would become a genuine American hero. What she knew was that she was tired after a long day's work and she wanted to rest her weary feet.

In the first half of this century, Montgomery, Alabama, represented the worst segregation had to offer. Daily life in Montgomery included such insulting facts of life as "blacks only" elevators, segregated lunch counters, and Jim Crow laws which relegated African-Americans to second-class status. And on public buses, the first four rows of seats were reserved for whites, and usually remained empty when there were not enough whites to fill them. The back section, of course, was always very crowded, was reserved for blacks.

One December evening after a long day at work, Rosa Parks stepped on a bus for the ride home to a restful night of sleep. Parks was sitting in the middle section of the bus when a white man boarded the bus and demanded that she move because the white section of the bus was full. Parks, very tired from a long day working as a seamstress, quietly refused to move. When told by the bus driver that the police were about to be called, Parks said, "Go ahead and call them." The police came and they arrested this gentle, middle-aged woman for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

It was this stand against racism and prejudice in Montgomery, Alabama, that has led many to refer to Rosa Parks as, "The mother of the Civil Rights movement." Because of the courage of individuals like Rosa Parks, the ugly head of segregation was eventually severed and the violence and indignities that once faced African-Americans in the South are now grim reminders of a shameful part of American history.

Mr. Speaker, school children today read in their history books about the strength, dignity and heroism of Rosa Parks. She is a living treasure and her heroism serves as a constant reminder that freedom only works if freedom applies equally to all Americans, regardless of color or circumstances.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer my support for H.R. 573, which would "Authorize the President to Award a Gold Medal on Behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in Recognition of her Contributions to the Nation."

Rare are the people who can be called "living legacies." But today I am fortunate to have the opportunity to honor one of these rare people. Her name is Rosa Parks.

It is probably hard for any of us to understand the inner strength and fortitude that it

took for Ms. Parks to take the simple, but momentous action she did on that fateful day of December 1, 1955. Yet, what we can understand is why she is most deserving of a Presidential Gold Medal.

We often hear the phrase "one person can make a difference." No one more embodies that phrase than Rosa Parks. Not only did she make a difference to her generation—since it was her action that inspired the creation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act—but she continues to inspire generations that have followed. Through the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, a non-profit organization she co-founded in 1987, she works with young people to help them achieve their full potential.

No words can better state the difference that one person can make than what Ms. Parks wrote herself in her book *Quiet Strength* "Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it. I kept thinking about my mother and my grandparents, and how strong they were. I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others."

When she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man she inspired 42,000 African Americans to boycott Montgomery buses for 381 days. Rosa Parks' fight against the barriers of racism could have easily ended there. The fact that it did not is what makes her so special.

Rosa Parks is a woman who lived her life with the strongest of convictions for what is right, what is good and what is just. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor one of our Nation's living legacies who has devoted her life to making a difference in this country.

Thank you, Rosa Parks for all that you have done.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 573 to authorize the President to award a gold medal honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks.

She has embodied the importance of individual responsibility and the significance of individual action. When she stood up for her rights as a human being, she truly made a difference.

In her autobiography *Quiet Strength*, Mrs. Parks explains that she did not change things alone. She writes, "Four decades later I am still uncomfortable with the credit given to me for starting the bus boycott. I would like people to know I was not the only person involved. I was just one of many who fought for freedom."

Her enduring modesty has also been an example for others, reminding us that standing up for principle is enough of a reward, whether it is in the limelight or in the shadows.

The reality is, of course, that Rosa Parks was the pebble that started an avalanche, and for that she is honored as the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement in America.

I have had the privilege of knowing Rosa Parks over the decades of the civil rights movement. As she has for millions of Americans, she has been for me a source of inspiration in the battle for good will among us all.

I urge support for this important resolution.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 573, legislation which will authorize a congressional gold medal to Rosa Parks. H.R. 573 will authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks is the

Mother of America's civil rights movement. Her efforts opened new doors of opportunity and brought true equality for all Americans closer to reality.

In 1955, Rosa Parks touched off the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, when she was arrested for refusing to yield her seat at the front of the bus to a white man. Bone-weary from a long day at work, Rosa Parks was on her way home. The only seat available on the bus was in the 'white' section. Outraged by her arrest, the black community in Montgomery launched a bus boycott demanding racial integration of the bus system.

The bus boycott introduced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to America as a civil rights leader. Led by Dr. King, African-Americans took car-pools to their destinations in Montgomery and pushed the bus system to the brink of financial ruin. After months of running nearly-empty buses, Montgomery relented and agreed to integrate the system. For the first time bus riders, no matter what their color, could sit anywhere they wanted.

The movement sparked in Montgomery culminated several years later in the Civil Rights Act, and other civil rights legislation, and a new affirmation of the equal rights promised all Americans by the Constitution. The quiet courage of Rosa Parks changed the course of American history and came to symbolize the power of non-violent protest.

In the 44 years since that day in Montgomery, the nation has derived immense benefit from the leadership Rosa Parks inspired, and she continues to dedicate her life to the cause of universal human rights.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Rosa Parks' contributions to the nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this unique woman and authorizing a congressional gold medal.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. House is honoring the contributions of a distinguished native Alabamian who helped change the social fabric of the nation. I'm speaking of Rosa Parks, known as the mother of the civil rights movement.

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama on her way home from work. She took her seat on the crowded bus just behind the white section. A few stops later, as more passengers boarded, the driver ordered her to give up her seat to a white man. She refused and the bus driver called the police. Parks was arrested for violating the Montgomery segregation code, having to pay a \$10 fine and \$4 in court costs.

It was this single act of courage that served as the catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 and the U.S. Supreme Court's eventual declaration that bus segregation was unconstitutional. By her quiet defiance, Rosa Parks laid the foundation of the peaceful resistance movement for American civil rights.

Today, the House has honored Rosa Parks' place in the history of our nation by authorizing the minting of a Congressional Gold Medal to be presented to her. I am proud to support this tribute to a great American who continues her quiet struggle for racial and social harmony.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks sat down for justice, sat down for righteousness, and then she would not get up when faced with tyranny and

oppression. In this immortal act, refusing to give her seat to a white man, she inspired the oppressed masses of minorities in America to reach for what America owed them. Ms. Parks also inspired a modern American myth that has allowed generations of children to aim higher, to reach for something better, and to believe that justice is possible for all people. This myth allows children and grown folk to believe that, maybe, all men are created equally. This woman inspired children from Soweto to Tibet, from Turkey to Columbia, and she still inspires children from Harlem to Watts, from Austin to Minneapolis, and from Chicago's west side to the south side and up to the north side.

Martin Luther King, Jr., while standing on the Mall of America in our Nation's Capitol said, "We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt . . . So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice." Now we, as Members of Congress, we are voting to cash a check and give a poor black woman from Montgomery, Alabama, a Congressional Gold Medal. Because she helped America realize that injustice permeated the land, realize that African-Americans would no longer accept the repeated abuse and inequity that went with their supposed life. Because she helped a nation realize we can only be as great as our most oppressed citizens. Because she was a catalyst for the greatest civil rights change in this Nation's history.

In the later years, the struggle progressed and spread this great nation, those who followed her path of civil disobedience while fighting for justice looked to her for strength and for inspiration. If Rosa Parks could go to jail for justice then so could they, and the jails across the southern States filled to the bursting point with people demanding equality. By awarding this medal today we bestow a rightful honor owed, an honor required, and an honor that is overdue.

It is high time we added Rosa Parks to the Pantheon of American heroes along Robert Kennedy, George Washington, and Nelson Mandela and this medal does just that. By awarding this medal we let the world know the bank of justice and righteousness is no longer returning checks to African-Americans marked as "insufficient funds," but we are on the road to distributing the dividends of justice and equality for all.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, led by a remarkable woman, Congresswoman JULIA CARSON, we honor the actions of another remarkable woman, Mrs. Rosa Parks. Congresswoman CARSON has worked tirelessly to insure that Mrs. Parks receives a Congressional Gold Medal, a distinction reserved for only the most heroic individuals who have affected change on a grand scale. It is particularly fitting that Mrs. Parks receive this award, since through her simple action, refusing to give up her seat on a crowded Montgomery bus, she affected the modern history of the most powerful nation in the world. However, Mrs. Parks is not only the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement, she is one of its current guardians, and I believe that in honoring her most well-known deeds, we must honor the other contributions she has made as well.

Another leader who refused to see people stripped of the dignity and self-respect they deserve, Mahatma Ganhi, once said that.

"Whatever you do, however small and insignificant it may seem, it is most important that you do it." Mrs. Parks' actions, and the enormous ramifications her small action has had, are a perfect example of the importance each individual must put in their own endeavors. Mrs. Parks' actions since that fateful day in Montgomery have helped many people reach their full potential. Although her leadership in the Montgomery bus boycott made her famous, her subsequent 33 years of work as a member of Congressman CONYERS' staff also made a real impact on the lives of others. In fact, Mrs. Parks has spent her whole life, not merely one day in 1955, providing an example for all of us of the difference one person can make.

In 1987, Mrs. Parks founded the nonprofit Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, which motivates youth to reach their potential through many programs, including bank training, substance-abuse prevention and goal setting. The institute she founded is not designed to organize a mass rebellion or spark a sense of outrage in the children it reached. Instead, Mrs. Park believes that spending time with children, giving them a good sense of their history and the pride they should have in it can affect real change. She spends a good deal of her time teaching the children she works with about the contributions of Africans in America, she sets the record straight about events during the civil rights movement with the expertise of someone who knows. The program she designed emphasizes pride, dignity, courage, leadership, and the importance of marketable skills. The institute's most well-known program, Pathway to Freedom, enables youth to research history around the country—by bus—tracing the underground railroad. Mrs. Parks teaches kids, ages 11–17, about the Underground Railroad that carried slaves through a secret route of wooded hideouts and safe houses to freedom in Canada. She given them the opportunity to participate in a month-long tour of those "Pathways to Freedom."

An example of personal responsibility who cleaned the bathrooms in her private school to pay for her own tuition, Mrs. Parks also passes this empowering sense of self on to the children with which she works. Awarding Mrs. Parks the Congressional gold Medal not only honors her stand, so to speak, in 1955, it also honors the many contributions she has made since then. Congresswoman CARSON's tribute to Mrs. Parks reflects her understanding of the importance the leadership of African-American women has on the nation.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 573, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Ms. Rosa Parks.

As the 91st African-American Member of Congress, I stand on the shoulders of Ms. Rosa Parks and the other mothers, martyrs, and soldiers of the struggle to create a more perfect Union.

On December 1, 1955, a weary seamstress in Montgomery refused to give up her seat on the public bus to a white man for the long ride home. She was just too plain tired. By her simple yet significant act of defiance, Ms. Parks struck a mighty blow against the states' rights philosophy that justified Jim Crow American Apartheid, and helped set the nation back on the course of Reconstruction.

Ninety years after the end of the Civil War, her actions were the catalyst for the sweeping

and revolutionary changes that culminated in some of the most significant legislation to ever pass the House of Representatives: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

In fact, my election to Congress, and the elections of every African-American serving in Congress, can all be directly attributed to her courage on that fateful day.

But if we are to honor Ms. Rosa Parks for her courageous actions on that bus in Montgomery, surely we must also honor her for the life of activism that led up to that event. Ms. Parks was as a familiar participant in the civil rights struggle long before that bus ride.

Through the forties and fifties, she served as an active and vocal member of the NAACP. She joined the Montgomery Voters League, and was active in registering others to vote well before her 44 years of fame began.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as we add our names to the litany of those who have paid tribute to the legacy Ms. Parks has created, let us also recognize the larger significance of her acts.

The true legacy for all Americans in the beginning of the Montgomery bus boycott is the years of hard work, perseverance, preparation, and faith that preceded that moment.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of the House, Rosa Parks did not make history by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in downtown Montgomery in 1955; she made history by preparing herself to stand and be counted long before the spotlight was cast on her weary feet.

She is a model citizen of this nation. And it is the entirety of her actions and the singularity of her purpose—a freer and more just nation—that we ought honor here today. Even more, we ought to continue to work in her legacy by striving to deliver on the constitutional promise of a more perfect Union, a Union in which no American is left behind.

Ms. Parks, on behalf of myself, my staff and the constituents of the Second District of Illinois, I thank you for all of the sacrifices you made for the United States of America.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks.

Occasionally in our nation's history there are pivotal moments and indispensable individuals that move America away from its divisive past and closer to its imagined promise. December 1, 1955, produced such a moment and such a person.

Rosa Parks grew up in segregation. Every day she was forced to deal with the violation of America's constitutional guarantees. On December 1, 1955, this American woman, exacted of this country the freedom and equality the Constitution promises.

Tired, like most citizens after a hard day's work, Rosa Parks refused to obey a shameful law that required her to sit at the back of a Montgomery, AL, bus. Her actions set the stage for the civil rights movement of a people who were unfairly and unjustly living under racist law.

Because of this brave American woman, segregation laws around the nation began to crumble and our nation began to respond to the call for African-American equality. Because of her invaluable contribution to our nation, every American lives better lives today. For that reason, it is quite appropriate that Mrs.

Rosa Parks receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

But I must add Mr. Speaker, that today, our nation continues to call for equality and freedom. There are still issues in our America that were issues in 1955. There are still Americans who do not enjoy the promises enumerated in the constitution. So, if we are to truly honor this great woman, we must do so, not only with a Gold Medal, but also with actions that further her purpose. We must all become individuals working to end the discrimination and inequalities that exist in our great nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and honor the mother of the civil rights movement, Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 573. At the same time, I rise in great respect for the courage and high ideals of Rosa Parks who stood steadfastly for the rights of individuals against unjust laws and oppressive governmental policies. However, I oppose the Congressional Gold Medal for Rosa Parks Act because authorizing \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Rosa Parks who is widely recognized and admired for standing up against an overbearing government infringing on individual rights.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, I must remain consistent in my defense of a limited government whose powers are explicitly delimited under the enumerated powers of the Constitution—a Constitution, which only months ago, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold.

Perhaps we should begin a debate among us on more appropriate processes by which we spend other people's money. Honorary medals and commemorative coins, under the current process, come from allocated other people's money. We should look for another way.

It is, of course, easier to be generous with other people's money.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I offer my enthusiastic support to H.R. 573, a bill to authorize the President of the United States to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contribution to the nation.

In recent years, the Congress has bestowed this important honor to Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa and Frank Sinatra. In their own way, each of these individuals has made significant social contributions. Moving beyond their basic roles as a political figure, a nun, and a musician, these Congressional Medal recipients have, by deed and example, influenced history.

The life of Rosa Parks and her heroic act of defiance on a Montgomery, Alabama bus on December 1, 1955, have forever changed history for millions of Americans. Few Americans can be more deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal. Rosa Parks's contribution to our society goes far beyond what she did one day in Montgomery, Alabama. From that day on, Rosa Parks has spent her life fighting for equity and justice, including her roles as the founder of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development to offer guidance to young African-Americans in preparation for leadership careers.

Having recently celebrated her 86th birthday, Rosa Parks deserves the thanks of the

American public for decades of dedication to the cause of racial equality. By her own admission, the "mother of the civil rights movement" is still uncomfortable with the accolades she has received over the years. It remains, however, our obligation as the elected representatives of our nation to single out those among us who deserve special recognition as role models for our society. Today, we have such an opportunity. By supporting the resolution before us we honor the principles that are the foundation of the American democracy.

I am pleased to cast an "aye" vote on the legislation before us and honor a most deserving recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks. As we approach the millennium, it is fitting that we bestow the Congressional gold medal on a woman whose simple, but profound response to unfairness marked a defining moment in our American century.

I offer the words of another of this century's courageous Americans as a tribute to Rosa Parks. As he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had this to say:

"I [have] an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him."

Mrs. Parks' courage to reach up for the "oughtness" before her continues half a century later to inspire others who refuse to accept the "ambiguities of history." Mrs. Parks, we thank you for your profound contribution to our nation.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing Rosa Parks, whom by her brave action became a catalyst in the Civil Rights Movement. When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus on December 1, 1955, no one realized the national impact her actions would have. Rosa Parks was simply one courageous woman who did what she believed was fair and right. She is a testament to the power of one individual willing to fight for her beliefs.

"Ms. Parks' actions set the Civil Rights Movement in motion and set a precedence for protest without violence. I would like to thank Rosa Parks for her contribution to freedom and justice for all men and women in this country. Her actions changed the course of history. Today Rosa Parks will take her rightful place among the legends of history when Congress presents her with the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Rosa Parks and in support of a bill introduced by Congresswoman JULIA CARSON of Indiana to authorize President Clinton to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks was the spark that lit the fire in the civil rights movement. In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama Ms. Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. She was arrested and ordered to pay \$14. Her actions

led other civil rights leaders to protest bus desegregation creating a city-wide boycott. Martin Luther King, Jr. became a household name when he became involved in the boycott by preaching to others about the injustice of the bus segregation policy.

Ms. Parks continued to be a national civil rights leader even after the success of the bus boycott. She lectured about the civil rights movement and attended demonstrations. She worked for Congressman JOHN CONYERS of Detroit, Michigan until 1988.

Congress should recognize Ms. Parks for her actions that defied the policies of separation and humiliation. Through this legislation, Congress should salute Ms. Parks for her current work in combating racism at the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute of Self Development which teaches young people about the legacy of the civil rights movement.

Because of Rosa Parks' courage, I stand before you here today. Because of her courage, America is a stronger nation.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I am proud to serve in a Congress that recognizes the importance of the civil rights movement and is willing to honor a woman who ushered in the movement. Our past should not be forgotten and our heroines should be honored.

I hope that this legislation will serve to bring America together. That is Ms. Parks' legacy.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 573, as amended.

The question was taken.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 573.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ALLOWING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF CERTAIN ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS TO ACCOUNTS AND ELIMINATING CERTAIN WAITING-PERIOD REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the