

In the early days of the boycott African American taxi companies helped transport former bus riders and did so for the reduced fare of 10 cents per ride.

In retaliation, city officials began strictly enforcing a long dormant city ordinance that set minimum fares at 45 cents, which priced taxi rides on a daily basis out of the reach of many working-class African Americans.

But despite the backlash, retaliation, and harassment by the local police, the boycott would not be broken.

The most sweeping official action designed to intimidate boycott leaders came in February 1956, when the Montgomery grand jury indicted 89 boycott leaders, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Rosa Parks; Rev. Ralph David Abernathy; and several other participating black ministers.

The charges were based on a seldom-enforced 1921 state statute that barred boycotts without, "just cause."

Those indicted were arrested over the next few days, booked and released on bond.

But as official tactics failed to discourage the boycott, unofficial intimidation would soon take a more dangerous turn such as the bombing of the parsonage in which King and his family lived was bombed.

Mr. Speaker, the Montgomery Bus Boycott showed the nation and the world that there is a limit to a people's patience and tolerance in the face of injustice.

In rebelling against the unjust, unfair, dehumanizing, and discriminatory practice of racial segregation, the Montgomery Bus Boycotters were acting in the finest American tradition, following the admonition in the Declaration of Independence that:

[A]ll experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is

their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Mr. Speaker, the books of literature are filled with stories about the plucky underdog striving and succeeding against the odds but what is amazing and remarkable about the Montgomery Bus Boycott is that it is a modern day story of little David felling mighty Goliath that has the advantage of being true and inspired other successful social movements around the world.

The Montgomery Boycott shows that one person can make a difference and can inspire similar acts of courage in others which when combined send out ripples of hope that, as Robert Kennedy, said "can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Rosa Parks said she acted because she wanted to be free:

Whatever my individual desires were to be free, I was not alone. There were many others who felt the same way.

And inspired by her example, others acted, and then joined by the actions of others, and then still others, the bus boycott succeeded.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years has passed since a small band of committed activists, armed only with their faith in a righteous cause, won the battle of Montgomery and set in motion a movement that tore down the walls of legalized injustice across the South.

They changed America for the better and for that we owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO ACEL MOORE SR.

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Acel Moore Sr., a journalist who was a trailblazing change agent who died on Jan. 12. Born in South Philadel-

phia in 1940, he joined the U.S. Army after graduating high school. And then he decided to set his sights on a career in journalism and was hired as a clerk at the Philadelphia Inquirer. During his 43-year career at the Inquirer, he rose through the ranks from clerk to reporter, columnist, member and associate editor of the editorial board and ultimately was named the newspaper's Associate Editor Emeritus. Along the way he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and was named a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

While his primary focus was reporting the news, he also dedicated himself to opening the doors of the esteemed fourth estate to minorities. He was a founder of the Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists. And, because of his advocacy the complexion of journalists in newsrooms across the nation changed. He also co-produced and hosted a groundbreaking television program, on PBS, "Black Perspective on the News." The program attracted African American journalists from across the country, focusing on national issues.

In spite of his accomplishments he never stopped being a man of the people, proudly representing his community. He was as comfortable interviewing mayors, judges and congresspersons as he was interviewing sanitation workers and the lady on the block holding a bat as she attempted to rid her neighborhood of gang violence.

Today there are hundreds of young people of color who are working journalists because they were mentored by Mr. Moore, or they were part of minority high school journalism programs he began or were simply inspired by his advocacy to make American journalism more inclusive.

With his death we have lost a powerful voice, but he has left such a legacy of dedication to journalism, justice and inclusion that we are all forever changed.