

HR 9001B

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the memory and the legacy of Rosa
3 Parks.

4
5 WHEREAS, born in Tuskegee, Alabama, nearly a century ago to
6 James and Leona McCauley, Rosa Louise McCauley was enrolled at
7 the age of 11 years in the Montgomery Industrial School for
8 Girls and later attended the Alabama State Teachers College High
9 School, and

10 WHEREAS, Rosa McCauley married Raymond Parks in 1932, and
11 the couple settled in Montgomery, working together in that
12 city's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of
13 Colored People, Raymond as an active member and Rosa as a
14 secretary and youth leader, and

15 WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks refused to
16 surrender her seat on a city bus to a white man as the laws of
17 segregation required and was promptly arrested, convicted of
18 breaking the law, and fined \$10 plus \$4 in court costs, a
19 sequence of events that triggered the 381-day Montgomery bus
20 boycott and led to organized protests throughout the nation as
21 aroused African Americans were joined by other courageous
22 citizens to demand equal rights for all, and

23 WHEREAS, in 1965, Mrs. Parks joined the staff of Michigan
24 Congressman John Conyers and served as a valued employee for 23
25 years until her retirement at age 75, meanwhile establishing the
26 Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, a
27 nonprofit organization designed to motivate young people to
28 strive toward reaching their highest potential, and

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29 WHEREAS, the bold action of quiet dignity by Rosa Parks in
30 Montgomery, Alabama, on December 1 a little more than 50 years
31 ago and the ensuing nationwide acts of civil disobedience not
32 only led to the desegregation of the public transportation
33 system in Montgomery but is generally pointed to by historians
34 as the beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement in the
35 United States, and

36 WHEREAS, during a lifetime spanning 92 years, from February
37 4, 1913, to October 25, 2005, Rosa Parks, named by Time Magazine
38 in 1999 as one of the "Top 20 Most Influential People of the
39 20th Century," received numerous commendations for her
40 dedication to the struggle against injustice and inequality,
41 including the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal, in 1979
42 and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980;
43 was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1983;
44 received the Rosa Parks Peace Prize in Stockholm in 1994 and the
45 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given by the
46 United States Executive Branch, in 1996; became the first
47 recipient of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's
48 International Freedom Conductor Award in 1998; and was given the
49 Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award given by the United
50 States Legislative Branch, and the Detroit Windsor International
51 Freedom Festival Award, and

52 WHEREAS, in her death Rosa Parks was honored as has been no
53 other woman before her when she became the first female and only
54 the second African American to lie in honor in the Rotunda of
55 the United States Capitol, an expression of profound respect
56 further heightened by President George W. Bush's order that

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57 American flags be flown at half staff around the world on the
58 day of her interment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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60 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
61 Florida:

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63 That the Members of the House of Representatives pause in
64 their deliberations to mourn the death of one of the nation's
65 most courageous citizens and to express their admiration for
66 Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, who remained committed to the cause
67 of freedom throughout her lifetime, speaking out against
68 injustice in America and abroad, and who came to be called the
69 "First Lady of Civil Rights."

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
71 presented to the Rosa Parks Library and Museum on the campus of
72 Troy State University, 252 Montgomery Street, Montgomery,
73 Alabama 36104, for display or other use as it may find
74 appropriate.