

ROSA PARKS

Civil Rights Leader

Rosa Parks, who inspired a generation to fight for civil rights, died in 2005 at the age of 92. Parks, a black woman, refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, nearly 50 years ago. She was arrested and fined for breaking the law.

In response to her arrest, black men and women in Montgomery boycotted, or refused to use, the city buses. They demanded an end to segregation, or laws that denied equal rights to black people. A young pastor at the local church named Martin Luther King Jr. led the boycott. Because of the protesters' refusal to ride the buses, the bus system nearly went out of business.

Many people believe that Parks's brave decision started the civil rights movement, a struggle to grant Americans the same rights, regardless of their colour. "She sat down in order that we might stand up," said civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. "Her imprisonment opened the doors for our long journey to freedom."

Parks's action showed how one person could make a big impact. She inspired others, including Martin Luther King Jr., to use nonviolence and civil disobedience as a way to protest problems in society.

Every December 1, children in Montgomery celebrate the anniversary of Parks's stubbornness. Thousands of children from the area participate in the Montgomery Children's Walk, beginning in the spot where Parks was arrested and ending at the state capitol.



It All Started on a Bus.

**On December 1, 1955,
Rosa Parks changed the course of history
and inspired us all.**



**December 1, 2005 has been designated
“A National Transit Tribute to Rosa Parks Day” in honor of the
50th Anniversary of her refusal to leave her bus seat, which
galvanized the early Civil Rights Movement.**

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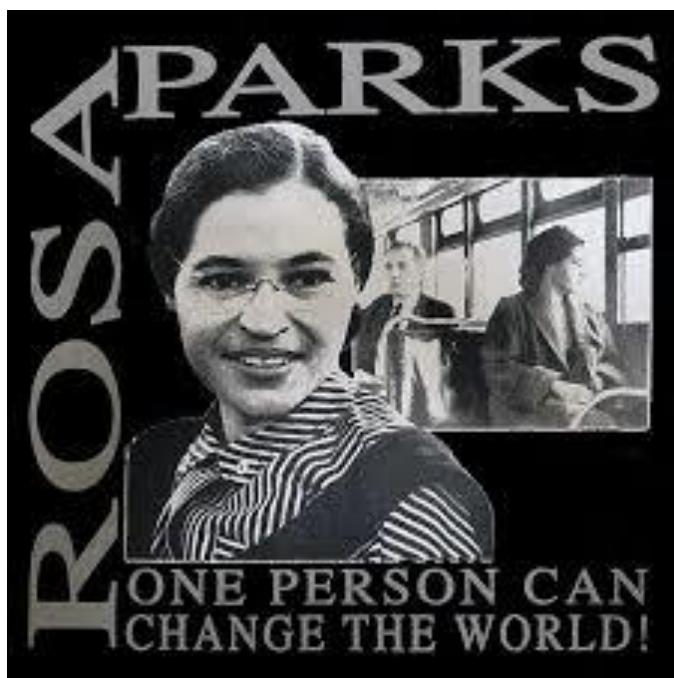
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

"You must never be fearful
about what you are doing
when it is right."

Rosa Parks



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Rosa Parks on the Birmingham bus,
December 1, 1955