

995292351

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 895

Offered February 25, 1999

Memorializing the Congress of the United States of America to enact H. R. 573 to authorize the President to award a gold medal to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the nation.

Patrons—McEachin, Abbitt, Albo, Almand, Armstrong, Baker, Barlow, Baskerville, Behm, Bennett, Black, Bloxom, Brink, Bryant, Callahan, Cantor, Christian, Clement, Councill, Cranwell, Crittenden, Croshaw, Darner, Davies, Day, Deeds, Devolites, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Dillard, Drake, Grayson, Guest, Hall, Hargrove, Harris, Howell, Hull, Ingram, Jackson, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Keating, May, Melvin, Moran, Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Parrish, Phillips, Plum, Puller, Purkey, Putney, Rhodes, Robinson, Scott, Shuler, Spruill, Stump, Tate, Van Landingham, Van Yahres, Wagner, Wardrup, Watts, Wilkins, Williams and Woodrum; Senators: Couric, Forbes, Gartlan, Hanger, Houck, Martin, Maxwell, Miller, Y.B., Puckett, Stosch, Ticer and Walker

Consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Rules

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

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "first lady of civil rights" and the "mother of the freedom movement"; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' quiet dignity ignited the most significant social movement in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards and accolades for her efforts on behalf of racial harmony, including the Springgarn 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; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the cause of universal human rights and truly embodies the love of humanity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has become a living icon for freedom in American; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact H. R. 573 to authorize the President to award a gold medal to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the nation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

HJ895