
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 18 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, KITCHEN, WILLIAMS, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK,
DINNIMAN, STACK, BREWSTER, SMITH, FARNESE, ARGALL, RAFFERTY,
FERLO, BAKER, ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF, YUDICHAK, ERICKSON,
HUTCHINSON AND FONTANA, JANUARY 29, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 29, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing the 100th birthday of civil rights icon Rosa Parks and
2 commemorating her life and legacy.

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

6 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks dedicated her life to the cause of
7 equality; and

8 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in
9 Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus
10 to a white man, and her stand for equal rights is credited as a
11 catalyst for the civil rights movement; and

12 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest led to approximately 42,000
13 African Americans boycotting the Montgomery buses for 382 days
14 until the Montgomery segregation law was changed on December 21,
15 1956; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruled on November
17 13, 1956, that the Montgomery segregation law was

1 unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials
2 were ordered to desegregate the buses; and

3 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has been honored as the "first lady of
4 civil rights" and the "mother of the freedom movement," and her
5 quiet dignity ignited the most significant social movement in
6 the history of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1987, Rosa Parks and her close associate Elaine
8 Steele cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self
9 Development to motivate and direct youth to achieve their
10 highest potential through Rosa Parks' philosophy of "quiet
11 strength" and cross-cultural exposure for nurturing a global and
12 inclusive perspective; and

13 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was the recipient of many awards and
14 accolades for her efforts on behalf of racial harmony, including
15 the Congressional Gold Medal, the Spingarn Award, which is the
16 highest honor of the National Association for the Advancement of
17 Colored People for civil rights contributions, and the
18 Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian
19 honor in the United States, and was named one of the 20 most
20 influential and iconic figures of the 20th century; and

21 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks sparked one of the largest movements in
22 the United States against racial segregation, and by her quiet
23 courage symbolizes all that is vital about nonviolent protest
24 because of the way she endured threats of death and persisted as
25 an advocate for the basic lessons she taught the people of the
26 United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks and her husband Raymond Parks relocated
28 to Michigan in 1957, and remained in Michigan until the death of
29 Rosa Parks on October 24, 2005; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate observe the 100th birthday of civil

1 rights icon Rosa Parks and commemorate her legacy, which
2 inspired all people to stand up for freedom and the principles
3 embodied in the Constitution of the United States.