

2013 -- H 5241

=====
LC00812
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

HONORING ROSA PARKS AND CELEBRATING DECEMBER 1ST OF 2013 AS "ROSA PARKS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY" AND URGING RIPTA TO MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FREE EVERY DECEMBER 1ST IN HER HONOR

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Williams, Abney, Hull, and Almeida

Date Introduced: January 31, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCauley was born February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama to
2 James McCauley, a carpenter, and Leona McCauley, a school teacher; and

3 WHEREAS, February 4th of 2013 would have been her 100th birthday; and

4 WHEREAS, At the age of 11 she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls
5 and later at Alabama State Teachers College. At twenty, Rosa married a barber named Raymond
6 Parks; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks, on December 1, 1955, refused to give up her bus seat to a white
8 passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, resulting in her arrest. Her defiance triggered the famous
9 Montgomery Bus Boycott and earned her the title "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement"; and

10 WHEREAS, The 382-day boycott introduced the world to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther
11 King, Jr. who was President of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the boycott's
12 spokesperson; and

13 WHEREAS, The Federal District Court on June 4, 1956, ruled bus segregation
14 unconstitutional thanks to the bravery of Rosa Parks; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks and her husband Raymond Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan in
16 1957, where Mrs. Parks served on the staff of United States Congressman John Conyers; and

17 WHEREAS, The Southern Christian Leadership Council later established an annual Rosa
18 Parks Freedom Award in her honor; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-

1 Development to offer guidance to young African-Americans; and

2 WHEREAS, President Clinton presented Mrs. Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal
3 of Honor in 1995 for her many sacrifices on behalf of advancing the cause of human rights for all;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks spent her last years in Detroit, where she died on October 24,
6 2005, at the age of 92; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby salutes and honors Rosa Parks as a hero in the fight for freedom
9 and equality on the 100th anniversary of her birth; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this House hereby reaffirms December 1st of 2013 and every
11 December 1st thereafter, to be "Rosa Parks Human Rights Day"; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby urges RIPTA to make public transportation free every December
14 1st; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Directors of the NAACP and RIPTA.

=====
LC00812
=====