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109TH CONGRESS, 1st Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 109–193

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA LOUISE PARKS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON THE BUS AND THE SUBSEQUENT DESEGREGATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

JULY 27, 2005.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 208]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208) recognizing the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The purpose of H. Con. Res. 208 is to recognize the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Fifty years ago this coming December, Rosa Louise Parks through one act of defiance inspired a town, a movement, and a nation to hold true to the ideals and principles upon which our nation was founded. Her single act is considered by many to be the beginning of the civil rights movement.[1]

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the "colored section" of a bus to a white man in the town of Montgomery, Alabama.[2] Her arrest led to the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott, legal challenges to the State of Alabama's and the City of Montgomery's segregation laws relating to public transportation systems, and subsequently to the desegregation of Montgomery, Alabama.[3] The Supreme Court case affirming the unconstitution-

[1] Rita Dove, The Torchbearer, Time Magazine, Volume 153, June 14, 1999.
[2] *Id.*
[3] *Gayle* v. *Browder*, 352 U.S. 903 (1956).

ality of Montgomery's segregation laws led to other landmark civil rights cases, such as *U.S.* v. *City of Jackson, Mississippi.*[4]

Since that day, Rosa Parks has continued to work to eliminate all forms of discrimination, ensuring that all Americans are afforded equal protection under all laws. She serves as an inspiration and as a reminder to all Americans of what the protections afforded by the Constitution mean. Through her act of defiance, Rosa Parks reminded all Americans that one person can make a difference. Her action and the civil rights movement it helped spawn, have expanded the promise of equality to our Constitution guarantees to every American.

HEARINGS

The Committee on the Judiciary held no hearings on H. Con. Res. 208.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On July 27, 2005, the Committee met in open session and ordered favorably reported the concurrent resolution without an amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes that there were no recorded votes during the Committee consideration of H. Con. Res. 208.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee believes that the concurrent resolution will have no cost for the current fiscal year 2005, and that there will be no cost incurred in carrying out H. Con. Res. 208 for the next five fiscal years.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the purpose of H. Con. Res. 208 is to recognize the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise

[4] 318 F. 2d 1, (5th Cir. 1963).

Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply as this is a concurrent resolution.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

The first preambular clause provides that most historians consider December 1, 1955, to mark the beginning of the civil rights movement;

The second preambular clause provides that December 1, 1955, is the date that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the "colored section" of the bus to a white man;

The third preambular clause provides that Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, as Rosa Louise McCauley to James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama;

The fourth preambular clause provides that Rosa Louise Parks was educated in Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in Montgomery Industrial School for Girls and then the Alabama State Teachers College's High School;

The fifth preambular clause provides that on December 18, 1932, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks and they settled in Montgomery, Alabama;

The sixth preambular clause provides that both Raymond and Rosa Parks worked in the Montgomery, Alabama branch of the NAACP, where Rosa served as a secretary and youth leader and Raymond as an active member;

The seventh preambular clause provides that on December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the "colored" section of the bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the "white" section was full;

The eighth preambular clause provides that Rosa Louise Parks' arrest led African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until they were desegregated;

The ninth preambular clause provides that the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged others across the nation to organize and protest equal rights;

The tenth preambular clause provides that the civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Louise Parks and others resulted in legal action challenging Montgomery, Alabama's segregated public transportation system, which led to the November 13, 1956 Supreme Court decision in *Gayle* v. *Browder* that affirmed a district court ruling that Montgomery's segregation laws denied African Americans of equal protection and thus were unconstitutional;

The eleventh preambular clause provides that in the years following the bus boycott Rosa Louise Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan and continued to advance the civil rights movement, including working in the office of Congressman John Conyers from 1965 to 1988 and establishing the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization, in 1987;

The twelfth preambular clause provides that Rosa Louise Parks has been commended for her work in the civil rights movement,

garnering recognition such as the NAACP's Springarn Medal in 1979, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999;

The thirteenth preambular clause provides that 2005 is the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and an occasion to recognize her courage, dignity, and determination as she confronted injustice and inequality.

The resolve clause expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that it:

(1) recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society;

(2) encourage the people across the Nation to recognize and celebrate this anniversary and the subsequent legal victories that sought to eradicate segregation in all of American society;

(3) endeavor to work with the same courage, dignity, and determination exemplified by Rosa Louise Parks to address modern day injustice.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes H. Con. Res. 208 makes no changes to existing law.

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