

the phone company, a job which she maintained intermittently after her marriage to Ralph Dewitt Henry on August 22, 1927. During the 1950s, Ralph, an employee at Gulf Oil, was transferred to Texas, where Irma became a nursing assistant at a local hospital. She then started a career at the county office in Pittsburgh, where she worked for several years until her retirement. Wherever she worked, Irma was well known for her extraordinary work ethic.

As much as she enjoyed each of her jobs, Irma has always treasured staying at home with her family. Irma and Ralph raised three sons, Ralph Jr., Herman, and Kenneth, and gained three daughters-in-law, Justina, Phyllis, and Arlene. Irma's husband Ralph passed away on December 8, 1984 at the age of eighty-six; however, Irma enjoys the company of her seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Irma has been an active member of the community and of the Democratic Party. She was elected committee woman for the Fourth Ward of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania and has always enjoyed advocating for others. Today, Irma is still very active and lives independently in her own apartment. She attends church services at her high-rise apartment and listens to country, western, and gospel music, enjoying the music of Daniel O'Donnell in particular. Irma is also a fan of Jeopardy, never missing an episode, and often spends her afternoons drinking coffee with her friends. Friends and neighbors appreciate her hospitality and her delicious cooking, always considering a meal at her home to be a special treat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding member of the community. Irma Henry's great dedication to her friends and neighbors and her love of assisting others have inspired those around her to serve the community as much as Irma has done. Irma has touched the lives of many, and all those who know her feel privileged for having had the opportunity to meet such a remarkable woman.

DEATH OF ROSA PARKS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks embodied the modern civil rights movement in the United States. Through her quiet determination to challenge a racist law by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, Rosa Parks sparked massive civil disobedience by fellow African-Americans in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. Her arrest led to a year-long bus boycott and ultimately a Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation on buses.

In a broader sense Rosa Parks was the conscience of our nation, who forced Americans to confront the racism in our government and society. Her case cried out for action, as our government struggled to implement the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee to provide "the equal protection of the law" to all citizens, regardless of race.

Civil rights historian and author Taylor Branch described Rosa Parks as a "tireless

worker and churchgoer, of working-class station and middle class demeanor." Her case raised the profile of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she was secretary of the local chapter. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. seized on her case and over the next decade rose to national prominence by leading the effort to enact historic civil rights and voting rights legislation in Congress.

America bestowed its highest honors on Rosa Parks later in her life, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Her life and legacy shows us that one person can change the course of history by courageously standing up for what is right. We must honor her legacy by continuing the fight for civil rights and equality under the law, to insure that all Americans, regardless of race, have the opportunity to pursue the blessings of liberty.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and works of an incredible woman and activist, Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mrs. Parks' act of brave defiance rocked the foundation of American society and inspired generations of civil rights leaders and created a sense of hope for every American facing legal discrimination in this country. Ten years after she refused to give up her seat because of her color, the country changed completely.

What seemed like a small act; refusing to leave her bus seat on a winter day in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, led to a boycott of the Montgomery buses for nearly 13 months by the black community. Her act captivated a nation, solidified a movement, and ignited the candle of hope for an entire generation of blacks.

In 1955, Mrs. Parks was a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair department store, and on that day, in the winter of 1955, she boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus and took a seat in the middle. The bus quickly filled up at subsequent stops and soon a white passenger was left standing. Mrs. Parks refused to give her seat up as the bus driver instructed. In her 1992 autobiography, she said "People always said that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that wasn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more than I usually was at the end of a working day. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." Soon after Mrs. Parks' refusal, the U.S. Supreme Court desegregated Montgomery's bus system.

A museum and library now stands on Cleveland Avenue where Mrs. Parks boarded her bus. She was given the Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. One cannot discuss the civil rights movement without mention of her name, and she will never be forgotten for her role in challenging the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot adequately express my feelings of sorrow at Mrs. Parks' passing. Mrs. Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus in 1955 and took a journey she could never have imagined. But now, 50 years after her

ride, we must remember her journey and renew our commitment to equality for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING DR. SARAH K. NOBLE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented individual who has been a dedicated member of our Committee staff for the past year—Dr. Sarah K. Noble.

Sarah came to the minority staff of the House Science Committee in late 2004 as a Fellow on a fully funded scholarship from the Geological Society of America (GSA). Sponsored by GSA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), she has spent her time on the Committee assisting primarily with the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

She is an expert in the field of space weathering and has concentrated much of her academic career on the geological specifics of lunar and planetary studies. She is an esteemed researcher who has presented her work at numerous meetings and conferences. In short Mr. Speaker, we were honored to have a person of her distinction and expertise on our team.

During her tenure on the Committee, Sarah played an important role in our oversight of NASA, with a particular focus on its science and education programs. She also was a valued and tireless participant in developing H.R. 3250, the Democratic NASA Authorization bill. A significant fraction of that legislation was incorporated into H.R. 3070, the NASA Authorization Act that passed the House by a wide margin earlier this year. In short, both her analytic work and her thoughtful perspectives helped us to craft a better bill than otherwise would have been the case.

In addition to her policy and procedural work for the Committee, Sarah was also instrumental in another of our great accomplishments this year—our newly refurbished website. It must be difficult to find a distinguished geologist who also minored in art in college, but we successfully found that person in Sarah. Her vision for our new site helped shape the overall look and feel, easing navigation and broadening its appeal.

Sarah also has a passion for the study of science and mathematics, especially as it relates to inspiring our youth to pursue careers in the field. Sarah translated this passion—one that I share—into a groundbreaking section on our new website designed specifically for science and math teachers and the students they inspire.

The "Science Education & You" portion of the Science Democrats' website is more complete and effective today due to Sarah's input and guidance. Hardly a day goes by that a teacher or policy professional doesn't email with positive feedback on this portion of our website. The federal resources we locate and organize for teachers and students at <http://sciencedems.house.gov> will continue to grow, and Sarah deserves many thanks for helping us launch such a valuable resource.