

1843, Baumfree, in response to a command from God, changed her name to Sojourner Truth and dedicated her life to traveling and lecturing. She began her migration West in 1850, where she shared the stage with other abolitionist leaders such as Frederick Douglass.

In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. In the speech, Truth attacked both racism and sexism. Truth made her case for equality in plain-spoken English when she said,

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, cause Christ wasn't a woman? Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

By the mid-1850s, Truth had settled in Battle Creek, Michigan. She continued to travel and speak out for equality. During the Civil War, Truth traveled throughout Michigan, gathering food and clothing for Negro volunteer regiments. Truth's travels during the war eventually led her to a meeting with President Abraham Lincoln in 1864, at which she presented her ideas on assisting freed slaves. Truth remained in Washington, D.C. for several years, helping slaves who had fled from the South and appearing at women's suffrage gatherings. Due to bad health, Sojourner Truth returned to Battle Creek in 1875, and remained there until her death in 1883. Sojourner Truth spoke from her heart about the most troubling issues of her time. A testament to Truth's convictions is that her words continue to speak to us today.

Mr. President, on May 4, 1999 legislation was enacted which authorized the President of the United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. The Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Rosa Parks on June 15, 1999 during an elaborate ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. I was pleased to cosponsor this fitting tribute to Rosa Parks—the gentle warrior who decided that she would no longer tolerate the humiliation and demoralization of racial segregation on a bus. Her personal bravery and self-sacrifice are remembered with reverence and respect by us all.

Forty four years ago in Montgomery, Alabama the modern civil rights movement began when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. The strength and spirit of this courageous woman captured the consciousness of not only the American people but the entire world.

My home state of Michigan proudly claims Rosa Parks as one of our own. Rosa Parks and her husband made the journey to Michigan in 1957. Unceasing threats on their lives and persistent harassment by phone prompted the move to Detroit where Rosa Parks's brother resided.

Rosa Parks' arrest for violating the city's segregation laws was the catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott. Her stand on that December day in 1955 was not an isolated incident but part of a lifetime of struggle for equality and justice. For instance, twelve years earlier, in 1943, Rosa Parks had been arrested for violating another one of the city's bus related segregation laws, which required African Americans to pay their fares at the front of the bus then get off of the bus and re-board from the rear of the bus. The driver of that bus was the same driver with whom Rosa Parks would have her confrontation 12 years later.

The rest is history—the boycott which Rosa Parks began was the beginning of an American revolution that elevated the status of African Americans nationwide and introduced to the world a young leader who would one day have a national holiday declared in his honor, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. President, we have come a long way toward achieving justice and equality for all. But we still have work to do. In the names of Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others, let us rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggle on Civil Rights and to human rights.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES J. JOHNSON

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Charles J. Johnson of the U.S. Army Communication-Electronics Command who is retiring from the United States Army after 30 years of active duty. Sergeant Major Johnson is an exceptional leader, a "soldier's" soldier and has served this great country with honor and dignity. He understands soldiering, leadership and selfless service. He is known for his dedication and integrity. He has tackled the tough issues that our Army has faced the passed few years while consistently focused on the proper care and concern for our soldiers and families. Through his hard work and efforts and the most significant contributions he has made our United States Army enters this new millennium as a strong, well-trained, proud fighting force. This wonderful American deserves a tremendous praise and thanks from a nation for which he has given so much and loves.

Sergeant Major Johnson was born on August 8, 1949. He was raised in Canton, Georgia, and entered the Army in April 1970 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he was trained in Basic Soldiering and Basic Combat Skills. Upon the completion of Basic Training he received advanced individual training as a Communications Center Specialist at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Johnson contin-

ued his military education completing numerous military schools but most notable: Defense Race Relations Institute, Advance Noncommissioned Course, Organizational Effectiveness Staff Officers Course, First Sergeant Course and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Sergeant Major Johnson was also awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland.

Sergeant Major Johnson's initial assignment was with the Defense Communications Agency Southwest Asia Mainland Region (Vietnam). He was assigned to the Defense Communication Agency in Washington, DC, following duty in Vietnam. Sergeant Major Johnson has served over 24 years overseas to include six tours in Germany, one tour in Korea, and another combat tour in Southwest Asia.

Sergeant Major Johnson has served with distinction in every leadership position from Team Chief to Command Sergeant Major. He served as a First Sergeant of B Company, 440th Signal Battalion (Darmstadt, Germany) and as Command Sergeant Major of the 44th Signal Battalion (Mannheim, Germany), 22d Signal Brigade (Corps) (Darmstadt, Germany), U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Signal Brigade "Voice of the ROK" in Yongsan, Korea. Sergeant Major Johnson also served as an instructor at the Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning, Georgia and on both the Equal Opportunity and Organizational Effectiveness Staffs at Headquarters, V Corps in Frankfurt, Germany.

Sergeant Major Johnson's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with fourth oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal (10 Awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and numerous service and campaign medals for service in both Southeast and Southwest Asia. He has also been awarded the German Marksman Award and the Signal Corps Regimental Medal, the Silver Order of Mercury.●

NATIONAL YOUNG FARMER AWARD

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. David Herbst, on receiving the National Young Farmer Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation. From their farm near Chaffee, Missouri, David and Leslie Herbst have set an example to our nation's agricultural industry about productive farming, land management, and environmental conservation.