

ROSA PARKS

"Mother of the Civil Rights Movement"

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 as Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama. When she was two she moved, with her mother and brother, to Pine Level, Alabama where she lived with her grandparents on their farm. When Rosa was 11 she began schooling at a private school called Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. Rosa later enrolled at Alabama State Teacher College, following in her mother's footsteps. She married Raymond Parks and then moved to Montgomery, Alabama. There, she became a member of the local chapter of the NAACP. After her husband's death she founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development geared toward helping the youth.

Mrs. Parks is known by many people as the woman who fought for her seat on the bus. Rosa did fight for her seat and she has continued fighting for her rights and the rights of others.

Achievements: Rosa Parks has recently written a book titled Quiet Strength. In her book, referring to the bus incident, she writes, "Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it."

Honors: Rosa Parks has been honored by an award in her name, *Rosa Parks Freedom Award*, given annually by the Southern Christian Leadership Council. She has received such honors as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the Springarn Medal and many more.

"Despite the violence and crime in our society, we should not let fear overwhelm us. We must remain strong."—Rosa Parks