

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.®

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NCBW
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN

EULOGIZES THE MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ROSA PARKS

New York, NY – About 50 years ago, in 1955, Rosa Parks marked her page in history when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man, as required by law. Her refusal and arrest propelled the modern civil rights movement, starting with a 381-day boycott that ended after the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled the segregation of city busses unconstitutional. On Monday, October 24, 2005, Rosa Parks passed away.

“We mourn her,” says Leslie Mays, president of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW), “not only because she is a great symbol of the civil rights movement but because she understood the importance of using her celebrity as a teaching tool to talk about our rights and Constitution to younger people.”

Members of NCBW chapters throughout the United States will attend memorial services to pay tribute to her — to her courage and her unending commitment to the movement. In recognition of these qualities, in 1996, Parks received the highest U.S. civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. And three years later, she received the Congressional Gold Medal.

Jewell Jackson McCabe, founder and chair of NCBW, said “her clear and courageous act began the dramatic sea change that characterized the modern-day civil rights movement. Her legacy deserves the brightest light.”

NCBW is an organization of progressive women of African descent whose voice and force for gender equity and sociopolitical advancement drive meaningful change to benefit women of color. NCBW advocates on behalf of women of color through national and local actions and strategic alliances that promote its national and international agendas on leadership development and gender equity in health, education and economic development.

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