

Rosa Parks receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

But I must add Mr. Speaker, that today, our nation continues to call for equality and freedom. There are still issues in our America that were issues in 1955. There are still Americans who do not enjoy the promises enumerated in the constitution. So, if we are to truly honor this great woman, we must do so, not only with a Gold Medal, but also with actions that further her purpose. We must all become individuals working to end the discrimination and inequalities that exist in our great nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and honor the mother of the civil rights movement, Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 573. At the same time, I rise in great respect for the courage and high ideals of Rosa Parks who stood steadfastly for the rights of individuals against unjust laws and oppressive governmental policies. However, I oppose the Congressional Gold Medal for Rosa Parks Act because authorizing \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Rosa Parks who is widely recognized and admired for standing up against an overbearing government infringing on individual rights.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, I must remain consistent in my defense of a limited government whose powers are explicitly delimited under the enumerated powers of the Constitution—a Constitution, which only months ago, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold.

Perhaps we should begin a debate among us on more appropriate processes by which we spend other people's money. Honorary medals and commemorative coins, under the current process, come from allocated other people's money. We should look for another way.

It is, of course, easier to be generous with other people's money.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I offer my enthusiastic support to H.R. 573, a bill to authorize the President of the United States to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contribution to the nation.

In recent years, the Congress has bestowed this important honor to Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa and Frank Sinatra. In their own way, each of these individuals has made significant social contributions. Moving beyond their basic roles as a political figure, a nun, and a musician, these Congressional Medal recipients have, by deed and example, influenced history.

The life of Rosa Parks and her heroic act of defiance on a Montgomery, Alabama bus on December 1, 1955, have forever changed history for millions of Americans. Few Americans can be more deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal. Rosa Parks's contribution to our society goes far beyond what she did one day in Montgomery, Alabama. From that day on, Rosa Parks has spent her life fighting for equity and justice, including her roles as the founder of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development to offer guidance to young African-Americans in preparation for leadership careers.

Having recently celebrated her 86th birthday, Rosa Parks deserves the thanks of the

American public for decades of dedication to the cause of racial equality. By her own admission, the "mother of the civil rights movement" is still uncomfortable with the accolades she has received over the years. It remains, however, our obligation as the elected representatives of our nation to single out those among us who deserve special recognition as role models for our society. Today, we have such an opportunity. By supporting the resolution before us we honor the principles that are the foundation of the American democracy.

I am pleased to cast an "aye" vote on the legislation before us and honor a most deserving recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks. As we approach the millennium, it is fitting that we bestow the Congressional gold medal on a woman whose simple, but profound response to unfairness marked a defining moment in our American century.

I offer the words of another of this century's courageous Americans as a tribute to Rosa Parks. As he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had this to say:

"I [have] an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him."

Mrs. Parks' courage to reach up for the "oughtness" before her continues half a century later to inspire others who refuse to accept the "ambiguities of history." Mrs. Parks, we thank you for your profound contribution to our nation.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing Rosa Parks, whom by her brave action became a catalyst in the Civil Rights Movement. When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus on December 1, 1955, no one realized the national impact her actions would have. Rosa Parks was simply one courageous woman who did what she believed was fair and right. She is a testament to the power of one individual willing to fight for her beliefs.

"Ms. Parks' actions set the Civil Rights Movement in motion and set a precedence for protest without violence. I would like to thank Rosa Parks for her contribution to freedom and justice for all men and women in this country. Her actions changed the course of history. Today Rosa Parks will take her rightful place among the legends of history when Congress presents her with the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Rosa Parks and in support of a bill introduced by Congresswoman JULIA CARSON of Indiana to authorize President Clinton to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks was the spark that lit the fire in the civil rights movement. In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama Ms. Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. She was arrested and ordered to pay \$14. Her actions

led other civil rights leaders to protest bus desegregation creating a city-wide boycott. Martin Luther King, Jr. became a household name when he became involved in the boycott by preaching to others about the injustice of the bus segregation policy.

Ms. Parks continued to be a national civil rights leader even after the success of the bus boycott. She lectured about the civil rights movement and attended demonstrations. She worked for Congressman JOHN CONYERS of Detroit, Michigan until 1988.

Congress should recognize Ms. Parks for her actions that defied the policies of separation and humiliation. Through this legislation, Congress should salute Ms. Parks for her current work in combating racism at the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute of Self Development which teaches young people about the legacy of the civil rights movement.

Because of Rosa Parks' courage, I stand before you here today. Because of her courage, America is a stronger nation.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I am proud to serve in a Congress that recognizes the importance of the civil rights movement and is willing to honor a woman who ushered in the movement. Our past should not be forgotten and our heroines should be honored.

I hope that this legislation will serve to bring America together. That is Ms. Parks' legacy.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 573, as amended.

The question was taken.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 573.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### ALLOWING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF CERTAIN ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS TO ACCOUNTS AND ELIMINATING CERTAIN WAITING-PERIOD REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the