

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING ROSA LOUISE PARKS**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education, Officers, Staff, Principals, Teachers and students pause to pay tribute to the life and work of Rosa Louise Parks, a civil rights heroine, who passed away on October 24, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Louise Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks attended Alabama State Teacher's College and moved to Montgomery with her husband, Raymond Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks became one of the first women to join the NAACP, and with her husband, became active participants in the NAACP's efforts to improve the conditions for African Americans in the segregated south through voter registration and civil rights advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for violating a City Ordinance in Montgomery, Alabama that required African Americans to surrender their bus seats to any white person upon demand; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks came to be known as the "Mother of Modern Civil Rights" because her act of civil disobedience in refusing to surrender her seat on December 1, 1955 resulted in the 382 day Montgomery Bus Boycott initiated by the Montgomery Improvement Association led by the young Martin Luther King Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montgomery Bus Boycott launched the end to the legal segregation in public accommodations in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks and her husband moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1957, where she served on the congressional staff of US Representative John Conyers; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987, which has the central mission is to motivate youth to reach their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks received the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1979, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks will be remembered as a pioneer, reformer, advocate, mentor, and educator; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosa Parks dignity in the face of discrimination and tireless commitment to equality has been invaluable to all students and citizens of Chicago and the nation.

**NOW , THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 16th day of November 2005 do hereby honor Rosa Parks as a civil rights leader and courageous spirit that transformed the nation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Memorial Resolution be made available to the family of Rosa Parks.