

2015-K948

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Claudette Colvin for her ceaseless dedication to the Civil Rights Movement

WHEREAS, It is with profound intent that this Legislative Body is moved to pay homage to a woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to give acclaim to individuals of great character whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Claudette Colvin for her ceaseless dedication to the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 5, 1939, Claudette Colvin, who some historians say is the "Mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement", is an African-American woman from Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Colvin grew up in one of Montgomery's poorer neighborhoods; she studied hard at school, earning mostly A's in her classes and even aspired to become President one day; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Claudette Colvin was a student at Booker T. Washington High School in Montgomery, Alabama; her family owned a car, but she relied on the city's gold-and-green buses to get to school; on March 2, 1955, she was coming home from school when she got on a Capital Heights bus downtown at the same place Rosa Parks boarded another bus months later; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Colvin was sitting about two seats from the emergency exit when four other passengers boarded the bus; the bus driver ordered her along with three other black passengers to get up; she

refused and was removed from the bus by two police officers; and
WHEREAS, Claudette Colvin was handcuffed, arrested and forcibly removed from the bus; she screamed that her constitutional rights were being violated; at the time, Colvin was active in the NAACP's Youth Council, and was actually being advised by Rosa Parks; and
WHEREAS, Nearly a year later, on February 1, 1956, Claudette Colvin was one of four black women who served as plaintiffs in a federal court suit, known as Browder v. Gayle, which became the legal vehicle when the United States Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional in December 1956; the Parks arrest case, while sparking the boycott, was a state case; and
WHEREAS, In 1958, Claudette Colvin left Alabama for New York City, and for over 30 years worked the night shift at a Catholic nursing home; she retired in 2004, after 35 years of working as a nurse's assistant in the nursing home; and
WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her two sons, Raymond and Randy, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and
WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; and
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Claudette Colvin for her ceaseless dedication to the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Claudette Colvin.