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ACR-156 Rosa Parks Day in California: 20th Anniversary. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 156

CHAPTER 12

Relative to Rosa Parks Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State March 04, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 156, Cooper. Rosa Parks Day in California: 20th Anniversary.

This measure would memorialize the achievements of Rosa Parks in the Civil Rights Movement and would commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Rosa Parks Day in California on February 4, 2020.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks attended the Industrial School for Girls in Montgomery, Alabama, and a secondary education led by the Alabama State Teachers College for Negroes. Parks left school in her senior year to attend to her sick grandmother and mother in rural Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks on December 18, 1932, and returned to finish her high school degree in 1933. Over time, Parks became increasingly active in Civil Rights issues and joined the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1943, serving as the chapter's youth leader as well as secretary to then NAACP President E.D. Nixon; and

WHEREAS, In September 1944, Rosa Parks boldly investigated the abduction and gang rape of Recy Taylor, a then 24-year-old mother and rural agriculture sharecropper walking home from church. The unprosecuted crime received extensive coverage and brought attention to the history of racial violence, particularly against women in the Deep South. Rosa Parks founded the "Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor" with the support of W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary Church Terrell, and Langston Hughes, among others, but still faltered under the weight of entrenched Alabama bigotry; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks, "Patron Saint" for the Women's Political Council of Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became legendary; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for a boycott of Montgomery buses, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by approximately 42,000 African Americans for 381 days; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the seminal event of the Civil Rights Movement when the United States Supreme Court ruled on the Browder vs. Gayle (1956) 142 F.Supp. 707 case, that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional, and

on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement," because her refusal to surrender her seat in compliance with Montgomery's segregation law inspired the civil rights movement, which has resulted in the breakdown of numerous legal barriers and the lessening of profound discrimination against African Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, The courage and conviction of Rosa Parks laid the foundation for equal rights for all Americans and for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks dedicated her life to the cause of human rights and truly embodied the love of humanity and freedom; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature officially remembers celebrating Rosa Parks on her birthday, Friday, February 4, 2000, and on this 20th Anniversary, Tuesday, February 4, 2020, urges all residents to pay homage to this great American woman; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this measure to the author for appropriate distribution.