

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



**Twentieth Anniversary
of the
Non-violent Movement:
The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

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The Montgomery Bus Boycott
December 5, 6, & 7, 1975**

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The day was Thursday, December 1, 1955. The place was Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Rosa Parks, a weary black seamstress riding home on the segregated city bus line, refused to give up her seat to a white man and was arrested and taken to the city jail.

E.D. Nixon, a militant black Montgomerian, immediately proposed united action by black citizens in support of Mrs. Parks. In a quick succession of meetings and rallies, the black community of Montgomery decided to stop paying for humiliation on the buses, and on December 5, the historic Montgomery bus boycott was launched. It lasted 381 days, until December 21, 1956, when the buses were desegregated.

The boycott was organized and carried out by the newly established Montgomery Improvement Association, under the leadership of two young ministers and close friends—Martin Luther King, Jr., serving as President, and Ralph David Abernathy, the Program Director.

For more than a year, the black community of Montgomery boycotted the Montgomery bus system—by walking, using car pools, sharing personal means of transportation.

The boycott was one of history's most dramatic and massive nonviolent protests, stunning the nation and the world. It was also a signal to begin a new phase of the long struggle, a phase that came to be known as the modern civil rights movement.

Twenty years later we commemorate the anniversary of the bus boycott (and the beginning of the modern-day non-violent movement) in a series of meetings and activities in Montgomery, with active participation of a cross section of human rights organizations and other supportive groups and their leadership. As we meet, we remember the challenge of the future, for there is still so much work to be done by our movement. The struggle for equality, justice, and peace among all people continues.



Mrs. Johnnie Carr was transportation committee secretary for the bus boycott.

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary. We must keep on struggling that justice will prevail.

"Thus 'The Struggle Continues' as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Movement."

Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr,
President, Montgomery
Improvement Association

E.D. Nixon proposed the bus boycott in support of Mrs. Parks.

"Before you brothers and sisters get comfortable in your seats, I want to say if anybody here is afraid, he better take his hat and go home. This is going to be a long-drawn-out affair. . .

"But we've worn aprons too long! It's time for us to take them off!"

E.D. Nixon



PARTICIPANTS

(Partial list)

Atty. Fred Gray	Rep. Alvin Holmes
Dr. Moses Jones	Rev. Solomon Seay, Sr.
Dr. Major Lightfoot	Mrs. Laura Wynn
Dr. Ed Irons	Senator U. W. Clemons
Mrs. Rosa Parks	Councilman Arthur Langford
Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy	Mrs. Virginia Durr
Mrs. Coretta S. King	Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth
Vernon Jordan	Congressman Andrew Young
John Lewis	Congressman Walter Fauntroy
Senator Julian Bond	Bayard Rustin
Robert Jones	Cleveland Robinson
Mrs. Johnnie Carr	Rufus Lewis
Dr. Lucius Foster	Rev. Charles Kirby
Dr. Randolph Blackwell	Mrs. Ann Braden
Atty. George Esser	Dr. Levi Watkins, Sr.
Dr. Felix James	Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.
Rev. Jessie Douglass	Les Dunbar
Rev. J. E. Lowery	Rev. A. W. Wilson
Rev. Leon Sullivan	Dr. Bernard Bridges
Rev. Andrew Brown	Moreland Smith
Rev. Tom Kilgore	E. J. Shepherd
Mark Stepp	Councilman Joe Reed
Dr. Robert Green	Jessie Hill
Rev. Calvin Morris	Rev. Thomas E. Jordan
Rep. Hosea Williams	Congressman Ron Dellums
Ed Nixon	Dr. Charles Hamilton
Barbara Reynolds	

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Twentieth Anniversary
of the
Non-violent Movement:
The Montgomery Bus Boycott
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, DECEMBER 5, 6, 7, 1975**

**PROGRAM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5**

DEXTER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 a.m.	Press Conference
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Devotion -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.
10:30 - 12:00 noon	Symposium -- "THE STATE OF THE NATION AND THE NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT"
	Presiding: Congressman Walter Fauntroy

MIDTOWN HOLIDAY INN

12:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Luncheon
	Presiding: Dr. J. E. Lowery
	Symposium -- "TOWARDS A NON-VIOLENT ECONOMY"
	Presiding: Dr. Virgil Wood

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ARENA

7:00 p.m.	Twentieth Anniversary Mass Rally
	Presiding: Dr. Moses Jones and Atty. Fred D. Gray

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Memorial -- Rev. Solomon Seay, Sr.

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Symposium -- "QUALITY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL
DESEGREGATION"

Presiding: Mr. Joe Reed

HOLT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Symposium -- "POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT"

Presiding: Mr. John Lewis

MT. ZION AME ZION CHURCH

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Ministers Meeting -- "THE ROLE OF MINISTERS AS THE
STRUGGLE CONTINUES"

Presiding: Rev. Dr. A. W. Wilson

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ARENA

8:00 p.m.

Twentieth Anniversary Concert

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Al Dixon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LILLY BAPTIST CHURCH

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Youth Rally and Arts Festival

Attorney Delores Boyd and Mrs. Lela Shepherd
Coordinators

20th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Ralph D. Abernathy
Erna Dungee Allen
Harry Belafonte
Anne Braden
Edward W. Brooke
Johnnie R. Carr
Kenneth B. Clark

George Esser
Walter Fauntroy
Murray H. Finley
Lloyd K. Garrison
Carlton B. Goodlet
Fred D. Gray
J.H. Hawthorne

Vernon Jordan
Coretta S. King
Martin L. King, Sr.
Stanley Levison
John Lewis
Joseph E. Lowery
E.D. Nixon

Rosa Parks
Claire Randall
A. Philip Randolph
Charles B. Rangel
Cleveland Robinson
Bayard Rustin
S.S. Say, Sr.

Fred Shuttlesworth
Glenn Smiley
Nelson A. Smith
Levi Watkins, Sr.
Roy Wilkins
Idessa Williams
Leonard Woodcock

SPONSORS

Juanita J. Abernathy
Randolph T. Blackwell
Ruth Bowen
Andrew Brown
Julian Bond
William L. Clay
Ronald Dellums
Al Dixon
Jesse L. Douglas
Leslie W. Dunbar

Virginia Durr
Chauncey Eskridge
Samuel B. Ethridge
Carl E. Farris
Christine K. Farris
Issac Farris
Dick Gregory
Hazel Gregory
Kenneth Gibson
Thomas E. Gilmore

Richard Hatcher
Charles Hayes
M. Carl Holman
Maynard H. Jackson
Leroy R. Johnson
Moses Jones
Thomas E. Jordan
Naomi King
Rufus Lewis

William Lucy
Naomi Marcus
L.D. Reddick
Joe Reed
James C. Sams
Richmond Smiley
C.K. Steele
H.M. Steele
Louis Stokes

Johnnie Tillman
Herman M. Waters
Robert White
Eddie Williams
Hosea L. Williams
A.W. Wilson
Rose Wylie
Claude Young
Coleman Young

A. Philip Randolph Institute
Alabama Democratic Conference
Alabama Education Association
Alabama Students for Civil Rights
American Friends Service Committee
Black Congressional Caucus
Catholic Peace Fellowship
Catholic Worker
Clergy and Laity Concerned
Delta Ministry
Distributive Workers of America
Elks Lodge No. 431
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Field Foundation
Georgia Legislative Black Caucus
Hospital and Drug Workers Union No. 1199
Joint Center for Political Study
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change
Martin Luther King, Jr. Workers Conference
Metropolitan Applied Research Center, Inc.
Montgomery Improvement Association
New World Foundation
National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Baptist Convention of America

National Business League
National Council of Churches of Christ
National Democratic Party of Alabama
National Education Association
National Newspaper Publishers Association Black Press
of America
National Progressive Baptist Convention
National Tenants Organization
National Urban Coalition
National Urban League
Welfare Rights Organization
Operation Impact
South East Alabama Self Help Association
South West Alabama Farmers Cooperative
Southern Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Southern Elections Fund
Southern Organizing Committee for Social and
Economic Justice
Southern Regional Council
Southern Rural Action
United Memorial Bank
Voter Education Project
War Resisters League
Women Strike for Peace
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Donzaleigh Abernathy
Ralph D. Abernathy, Jr.
Archie Allen
Roosevelt Barnett
John Bascom
Fred C. Bennette
Roland Betts
Willie Bolden
Delores R. Boyd
Viola Bradford
Frank A. Bray
Hattie Brooks
Tyrone Brooks
Wilson Brown
Gwendolyn Buford
Diane Burke
Owen Butler
Mattie P. Carr
Stoney Cooks

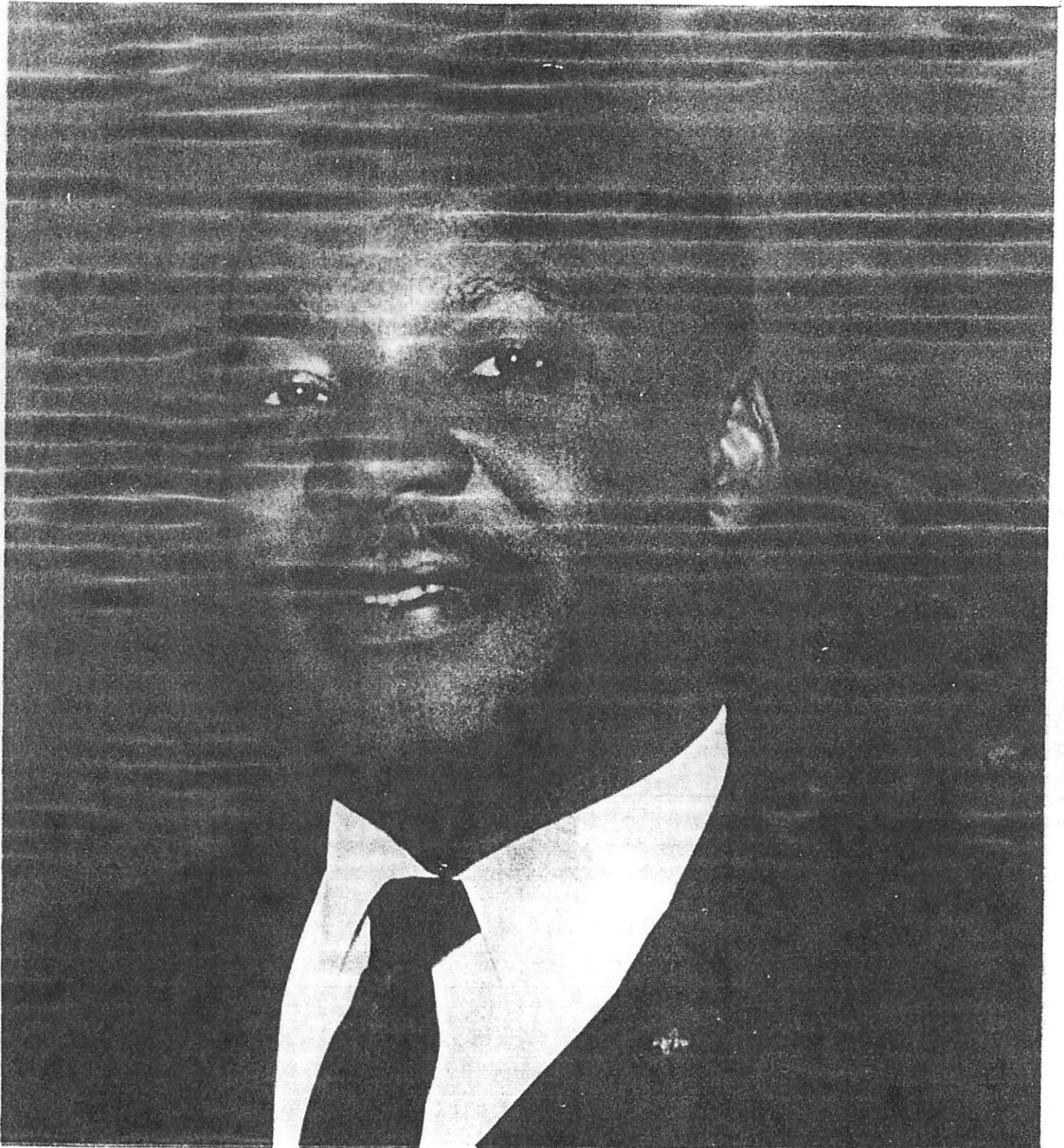
Edward Corbet
R.B. Cottonreader
Edwina Cox
Doris Crenshaw
T.L. Crenshaw
C.B. Crockery
Alvin Dortch
William Douthard
Alveeta K. Ellis
Doris Ford
Fred Foxx
C.L. Franklin, Jr.
Richard Gay
Gloria German
Ernest Greene
Jack Guilbeaux
Fvelyn Hall
Joseph Hammonds
Lester Hankerson

Bobby Hargrove
William Harris
Bertha Howard
Charles Jackson
Kaye Jackson
Hobart James
B.J. Johnson, Jr.
Beautie M. Johnson
Inell L. Johnson
J.T. Johnson
Robert Johnson
Robert Jones
Richard D. King, Jr.
Derek King
Martin L. King, III
Yolanda King
Bernard Lafayette
Byron Long
Norman Lumpkins

Marge Manderson
LaRue Mann
John Marcus
Sherrill Marcus
Sonny Marcus
James B. Marshall
Claudette C. Mathews
David McReynolds
Frederick Moore
Calvin Morris
Thomas Offenburger
Luther L. Olive
James Orange
Ben Owens
Terri Randolph
Doris Reed
Leon F. Ross, Sr.
W. O. Robinson
William Rutherford

Jimmie Samuels
Rita J. Samuels
Richard Smith
F.J. Simms
Ralph Stevenson
Fred D. Taylor
John Thomas
Elaine Tomlin
Albert Turner
Dorothy Vaughn
C.T. Vivian
Dorothy Williams
Gladys Williams
Lula J. Williams
Clara Wise
Virgil Wood
Willie Wood
Herbert Young

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was elected President of the Montgomery Improvement Association December 5, 1955.



"Now the judgement is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we are all going to perish together as fools. . ."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"This conference must look to the future, not the past. It will not be and can not be an empty celebration to reminisce."

Mrs. Coretta Scott King

NOTES

