



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2005

Contact: Jon Goldstein
Santa Fe: 505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Takes Actions to Honor Civil Rights Hero Rosa Parks

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today took two executive actions to honor Rosa Parks, the civil rights pioneer who passed away last week at the age of 92. Governor Richardson ordered all state flags be flown at half staff tomorrow and signed a proclamation making tomorrow, November 2, 2005 "Rosa Parks Day" in New Mexico. These actions follow President Bush's order to fly the U.S. flag at half staff tomorrow on the day of Rosa Parks' funeral.

"At a time when our nation faced a crossroads, Rosa Parks stood up for us all," Governor Richardson said. "Her peaceful act was a turning point in our history and we never looked back as a nation. She will always stand as a shining example of the American spirit, and her determination to do the right thing will continue to inspire generations to come. May God rest her soul and may our nation mourn her passing and honor her memory forever as a crusader for human rights."

#30#

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-052 FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa Parks died in Detroit, Michigan on Tuesday, October 25, 2005, at the age of ninety two years old;

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks became a beacon of courage and a symbol of civil rights when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger, accepting arrest, trial and conviction instead of humiliation;

WHEREAS, her quiet insistence on human dignity in the face of segregation, racism, and Jim Crow laws sparked the city-wide bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama that brought an unknown young minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence;

WHEREAS, alongside Dr. King, Ms. Parks became a leader and icon in the national effort that resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation and gave critical momentum to the larger battle for civil rights;

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has been hailed as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" in America for her pivotal act on that day in Alabama, as well as for her lifelong commitment to justice for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a Congressional Gold Medal, and following her death at age ninety two, became the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, until sunset on such day, in accordance with the President's proclamation, in honor of Ms. Rosa Parks. The people of New Mexico send their thoughts and prayers to her family and a heartfelt thank you for her commitment to freedom and equality.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1955, seamstress Rosa Parks became a beacon of courage and a symbol of civil rights when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger, accepting arrest, trial and conviction instead of humiliation; and

WHEREAS, her quiet insistence on human dignity in the face of segregation, racism and Jim Crow laws sparked the city-wide bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama that brought an unknown young minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence; and

WHEREAS, alongside Dr. King, Rosa Parks became a leader and icon in the national effort that resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing the segregation of city buses, and gave critical momentum to the larger battle for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has been hailed as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" in America for her pivotal act on that day in Alabama, as well as for her lifelong commitment to justice for black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a Congressional Gold Medal, and following her death at age 92, became the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim November 2, 2005 as:

"Rosa Parks Day"

throughout the State of New Mexico, and honor her great contributions to American freedom.

Attest:

*Done at the Executive Office this
1st day of November, 2005.*

*Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico
Bill Richardson
Governor*