



## **Pathways To Freedom Alumni**

honor the life and legacy of

**Mrs. Rosa L. Parks**

**The Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement**

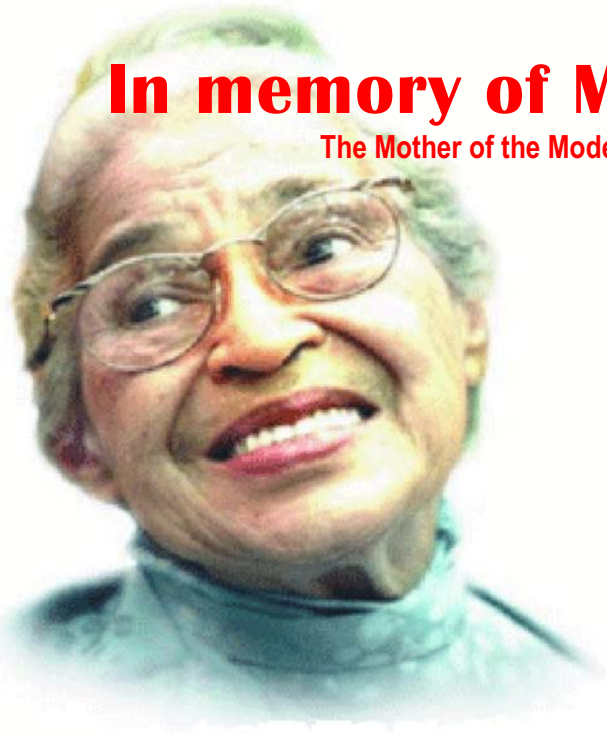
October 30, 2005 and beyond





# In memory of Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

The Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement



# Pathways Alumni Salute Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

Thousands, from the homeless, to tourists, to teachers, people of faith, and of all races lined the streets of Washington, DC, hoping to wave in farewell ovation to the woman whose quiet defiance excited a nation and ignited a movement. On October 30-31, 2005, another chapter was written in the annals of history in Washington, DC, when the arrival of Mrs. Rosa L. Parks set precedence and amended protocol to accommodate the honor she was due.

Amidst hours of tributes presented by some of the nation's top officials and celebrities at the Capitol Rotunda and at Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pathways to Freedom alumni students were granted an opportunity to say farewell in their own way to their she-ro and "mother." Distinguished by t-shirts reflecting the innocence of youth and equal brother and sisterhood, five Washington, DC based local and national alumni students were reunited with other former students they had met during summer Pathways journeys.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Parks love and service was for the youth. Along with Mrs. Elaine Steele, she co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. Ultimately, the Pathways to Freedom Program was born. In paying tribute to her in death, it was only fitting that youth who had benefitted from this program should be represented in all aspects of her final journey to freedom.

Some Pathways students had traveled from Detroit and Montgomery on the plane which carried family, friends, and the remains. Those students continued the journey with her until she was laid to rest at Woodlawn with her husband, mother, and brother in Detroit. Whether the complete or partial journey, the lives of each of the youth who participated in this finale would be forever changed. Each of them would be uniquely qualified to say to their friends and to their families-to-be that only weeks short of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mrs. Parks' historic act, they were on hand to hear her say to the nation in absentia, "You may do that," when Congress resolved that she would be the first woman to lie in state in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

As she entered the Rotunda and was escorted to her appointed place, a hush fell over the crowd. It was as if the walls of the Capitol joined the students in shedding quiet tears for her and for the slaves who had built the magnificent structure in anticipation of this day. She had arrived for one of her final appearances in the District.

Thousands waited outside. This time, it could be truthfully recorded that Mrs. Parks would refuse to relinquish her place because she was in fact tired. Those who witnessed her departure reported that she had peacefully agreed to rest from many long and hard days of work which had occurred over 92 years.



**Left to right Rotunda Salute Alumni:** Sulaiman Harris, Larenzo Gonzalez, Kimberly Littlejohn, Tiffany Sampson, Renada Johnson.



Renada Johnson and Kimberly Littlejohn, 1995 - 1997 Pathways Alumni, are honored to stand in front to represent the endearment of DC Regional and National students at the Rotunda closed ceremony.

# Pathways Alumni Salute Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

Renada Johnson and Kimberly Littlejohn, two of the alumni students of Pathways and now graduate students, stood out front, near the President and the First Lady, with Members of the House and Senate, the Morgan State University Choir, close family and friends. If the thoughts of everyone, to include those of Renada and Kim, were audible, they would have been deafening as each person reflected upon the setting in which they had last shared a laugh, a handshake, or a conversation with Mrs. Parks.

Many of those who came to pay their respects had spent hours with her at commemorative and special events, and some were just there because had it not been for her single act, their ability to stand in the Rotunda and other public places would be prohibited.

## Pathways National and Regional Alumni Memorial Tribute

Memorial Participants	Pathways Year	Level
Ms. Renada Johnson	1995-1997	DC Regional/National
Ms. Kimberly Littlejohn	1995-1997	DC Regional/National
Ms. Shanae Williams	1995-1997	DC Regional
Ms. Jackie King	1995-1997	DC Regional
Ms. Andrea Latney	1995-1997	DC Regional
Mr. Akil Dickens	1995-1997	DC Regional
Mr. Sulaiman Harris	1995-1997	DC Regional/National
Ms. Alicia Rose	1995-1997	DC Regional
Ms. Stephanie Thompson	1995-1997	DC Regional
Mr. Darius Jackson	1995-1997	DC Regional
Mr. Lorenzo Gonzalez	1996-1997	National
Mr. Lenwood Williams	1995-1997	DC Regional
Ms. Tiffany Sampson	1995-1997	DC Regional
Ms. Tiffany Spriggs	1995-1997	DC Regional

## Kiamsha Youth and NASA Saturday Academy Partnership Collaborative

Ms. Markita Jeter  
 Ms. Erika Thompson  
 Ms. Jasmyne Matthews  
 Ms. Traci Watkins  
 Ms. Monique Beach  
 Ms. Marygale Akpan  
 Mr. Dwight Jones  
 Ms. Timea Jackson  
 Ms. Iyesha Gregg  
 Ms. Zoelia Leacock



Pathways alumni students reunite with Mr. Rodney Slater, Former Secretary of Transportation, following the October 31st memorial service for Mrs. Parks.

# Pathways Alumni Salute Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

You will read of the many who stood to speak  
At the services of Mrs. Parks  
They referred to the act she had accomplished  
And the date she made her mark  
Among dates, they noted her year of birth  
And her departure with regret and tears  
We all knew what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years

1913-2005

For that dash represented all the time  
That she spent alive on earth  
And now all who knew and loved her  
Know what a little line can be worth

For it matters not, how much we own;  
The cars . . . the house . . . the cash,  
What's important is how we live and serve  
And how we'll spend our dash.

She encouraged us to do our best,  
Seek peace and fair exchange  
For you never know the moment when,  
Your actions can affect change.

Have faith in God, seek education first  
Stay focused on what's true and real,  
She proved we should be always mindful  
Of how others around us may feel

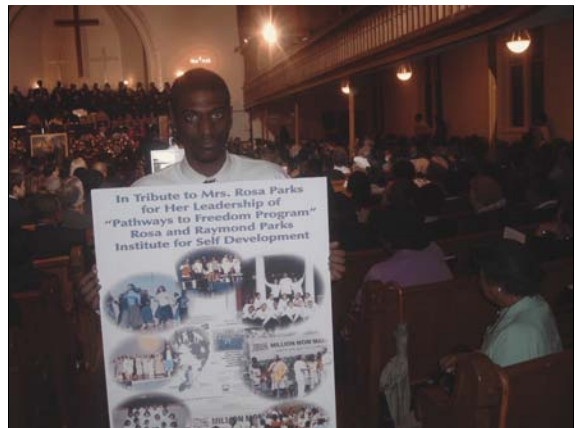
And when our eulogy is read;  
Our life's actions all rehashed  
With respect and in honor to her, we have planned  
To most productively spend our dash.



Highlighted by CSPAN in its coverage of the Metropolitan AME Memorial Service, this image, depicting Mrs. Parks on the front seat of a modern-day city bus and Ms. Addie Richburg, Former National Coordinator for the Pathways to Freedom Program (left of Mrs. Parks) was among those featured during the student march.



Until she became physically challenged and retired from public appearances, each year, Mrs. Parks and Steele traveled with Pathways to Freedom students to the John Freeman Walls Underground Railroad site in Puce, Ontario, Canada, where they enjoyed the fellowship of descendants of John and Jane Walls who traveled to Canada along the Underground Railroad. The image on the t-shirts represents the signature theme of the site, Equal Brotherhood and Sisterhood.



Pathways alumni students conduct a ceremonial march during the memorial service. In this photo, bearer displays the partnership between DC Regional Pathways to Freedom Alumni, NASA Saturday Academy, and the Kiamsha Youth Organization with a collage of photos.



During ceremonial march, Pathways alumni student displays image of Mrs. Parks in Charlotte, North Carolina during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mrs. Parks is pictured with sorority students of UNC Charlotte.

# Pathways Alumni Salute Mrs. Rosa L. Parks



In tribute, alumni students symbolize the spirit of the civil rights movement before family, dignitaries, and friends by conducting a moving ceremonial march through church aisles while bearing images of Mrs. Parks in various program settings. The tribute was conducted during the memorial service held for Mrs. Parks at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC. In the background, Metropolitan AME Choir presents a stirring rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" while students march.



# Pathways Alumni Salute Mrs. Rosa L. Parks



The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development was founded by Mrs. Rosa L. Parks and Mrs. Elaine Eason Steele in 1987 to carry on Mrs. Parks work by motivating youth to achieve their highest potential. The Institute is a charitable, educational 501(c)(3) organization which is tax-exempt according to federal guidelines.



Pathways to Freedom, with outreach to youth, aged 11-17, traces the Underground Railroad into the civil rights movement and beyond. It is supported by extended curriculum components implemented throughout the year with in local communities.



The Pathways to Freedom Program is the major segment through which the Rosa Parks philosophy of "Quiet Strength" has been passed onto over 7,000 students through curriculum design. Pathways Chapters are in seven states in the United States as well as in the Bahamas and Canada. Students, traveling primarily by bus, experience a unique historical research journey and learn lessons of history from interpersonal interaction and hands-on activities.



Pathways brings the history of the civil rights movement to life and empowers youth with the skills to model Mrs. Parks' work for human rights in all areas. Over a five-week period each summer, the program covers regional, national, and international territory and is designed to culminate in creative finale reporting on the learning expedition. Students are able to share their knowledge and experiences in public forums in their local communities after returning home.



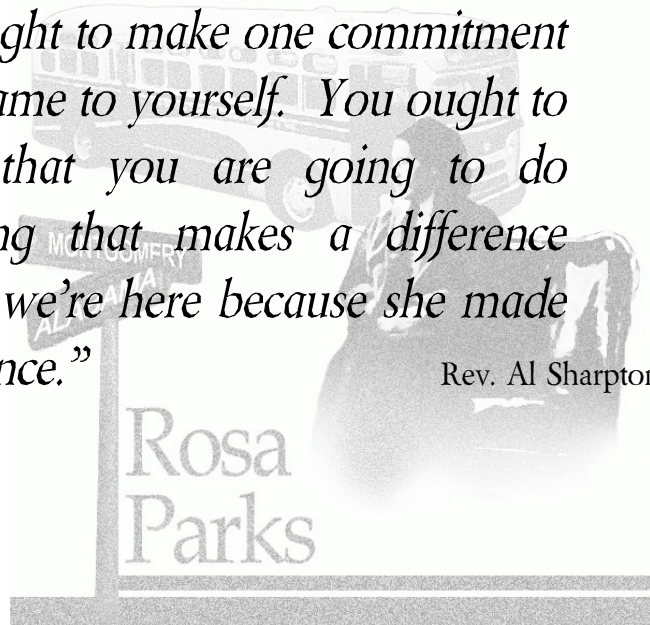
Detroit and DC Pathways alumni are pictured with Mrs. Elaine Steele, Co-Founder, at a reception for family, friends, and dignitaries at the Capitol following the arrival of Mrs. Parks' remains and ceremony in the Rotunda.

## DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks



*“You ought to make one commitment in her name to yourself. You ought to resolve that you are going to do something that makes a difference because we’re here because she made a difference.”*

Rev. Al Sharpton



As youth and young adults, it is now time that we put some of the knowledge we have gained to work. We must help to build upon what the Institute has begun and broaden our contributions to preserve the legacy of Mrs. Parks by uplifting her priorities. While Mrs. Parks had no children of her own, she once wrote, *“I have always felt a need to work with youth. I will not give up on them.”* It is for that reason that we have identified several areas of focus through which we will promote the Institute and begin new journeys. We challenge each of you to join us in making a difference.

On behalf of the Pathways to Freedom Alumni students of Metropolitan Washington, DC and beyond, beginning December 1, 2005, and continuing for the 381 days to follow, we ask you to join us in launching several national programs and collaborative partnerships to demonstrate our affection and respect for Mrs. Rosa L. Parks. Prior to Mrs. Parks’ death and in sync with Rosa Parks: The Next Generation, our commitment will be to support the program and elements she deemed important during her lifetime. We believe through collaboration and partnerships, we can assist Mrs. Steele in realizing the full potential of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development.

As we grow and mature into adulthood, we must educate ourselves on issues which support our continued education, mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional development. As young adults having had the unique opportunity to share many cherished moments and learning experiences with Mrs. Rosa Parks, we feel an obligation to mobilize ourselves and identify ways others may engage in service to our community as she did. Our efforts will focus on the following national and local initiatives:

# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

## I. Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going? Building Awareness and Appreciation for the Movement

These words are significant to the Pathways to Freedom Program and have been etched into the minds of participating youth. Out of respect for this theme and in tribute to Mrs. Parks, we will partner with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice to revitalize and raise consciousness about the civil rights movement and its impact on today. We will remind audiences of youth and bodies of faith of the sacrifices made by Mrs. Parks and others since by presenting PEN OR PENCIL: FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

**The Pen or Pencil: Freedom Of Choice** Series commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott which served as a springboard for the modern day civil rights movement. It calls attention to the well and lesser known acts of courage and extreme sacrifice to obtain freedom and the full benefit of the U.S. Constitution for all citizens, regardless of race, creed, or color. At the front and center of the movement were well-known leaders, Mrs. Rosa L. Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While they paved a pathway to freedom traveled by many, there were less known heroes like Mae Bertha Carter, her husband, and her children, who like Dr. King and Mrs. Parks, suffered undue hardships for the right to choose. The series will demonstrate how average people can accomplish extraordinary feats, how the lack of education is a key ingredient for incarceration, and how endurance in the face of extreme hardship can yield immeasurable success.

One and two hour presentations, customized per setting, will include:

- Narration
- Visual media (excerpts from *The Intolerable Burden*)
- Oral history
- Audience exchange
- Interactive exercises
- Music

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the civil rights movement, we will seek to present this program in a minimum of 50 cities/locations across the country beginning with Washington, DC.

During each presentation and/or viewing, we will:

- Generate enthusiasm and support for Institute programs
- Mobilize youth and volunteers throughout the country to make a difference
- Stimulate interest in forming chapters of Pathways to Freedom in schools and youth ministries
- Inspire the nation to serve this present age by helping to reduce the number of youth who enter the criminal justice system.

# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

## II. Promoting Responsible Citizenship and Relationships



### **Students brave cold to honor civil rights anniversary**

***A vigil was hosted on the South Oval in memory of civil right icon, Rosa Parks***

by Dawndee Hudson, December 01, 2005 Oklahoma University Daily

Bundled in winter coats, hats, gloves and scarfs, OU students gathered around the bus terminal on the South Oval, braving 30-degree temperatures and cold winds Thursday.

The students were gathered for a candlelight vigil honoring civil rights icon, Rosa Parks.

The vigil, organized by the Black Student Association, occurred at every Big 12 school and marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and commemorated her life.

Parks, who at the time was an unknown seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white man on Dec. 1, 1955, and was subsequently arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance.

Parks' decision that day helped ignite the civil rights movement and led to the famous Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott was organized by the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and lasted 382 days before the Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional.

Parks, 92, died October 24.

# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks



Students light candles in memory of Rosa Parks on Thursday evening at the bus stop on the South Oval.

## Students brave cold to honor civil rights anniversary

*A vigil was hosted on the South Oval in memory of civil rights*

*icon Rosa Parks.*

by Dawndee Hudson  
December 01, 2005

(Continued)

We wanted to commemorate her life and all her achievements, said Japera Croom, BSA press secretary and journalism sophomore.

Croom, who met Parks in Washington, DC, through the Pathways to Freedom program, said Parks was humble and quiet, but strong.

Her eyes sparkled at you, she said. That's what I remember most.

The Pathways to Freedom program was created by Parks and the Rosa Parks Foundation. The program was developed to help children learn about their heritage by traveling across the country tracing underground railroad routes and visiting the locations of important scenes in the civil rights movement.

"Up until the day she died, she was a constant supporter of youth in America. I think she had such a huge impact on the country" Croom said.

Participants in the vigil sang, prayed and observed six minutes of silence. As the candle flame was being passed around, the words, "How are you making a difference? Think about it as you pass this light," were recited.

DeNikka Pearl Barnett, BSA political awareness chairwoman and social sciences and organizational studies junior, said Parks actions helped her to attend OU today.

Parks probably didn't realize her act of defiance would have such impact on America, Pearl said. Croom said she hopes those in attendance took away a respect for Parks and realized that she changed not just African American society, but American society, too.

"She was an amazing woman," she said.

# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

## III. Justice Sunday National Call to Service and Recruitment Initiative

In a speech given by Dr. King on February 11, 1958, at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, he stated, “. . . Never forget that the Montgomery story is not a story, it's not a drama with only one actor. But it's a drama with 50,000 actors, each playing his part amazingly well. And I hope you will never forget the humble people of that community. You hear a great deal, I imagine about a fellow by the name of Martin Luther King. You'll occasionally read his name, and you see his picture here and there. But . . . (he) would not even be mentioned in history if there had not be a Rosa Parks and 50,000 humble people who had the courage to stand up and who said in their hearts that we've had enough. . .”

In the words of former President Clinton during the Detroit celebration of Mrs. Parks life, “The world knows of Rosa Parks because of the single, simple act of dignity and courage that struck a lethal blow to the foundations of legal bigotry.”

NAFJ ([www.nafj-nabcj.org](http://www.nafj-nabcj.org)) founded and has sponsored Justice Sunday since 2001 as a national movement to honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the civil rights movement, Pathways alumni will now partner with NAFJ to add Mrs. Rosa L. Parks as an icon for service. Mayors from cities across the country issue proclamations declaring the Sunday prior to the King federal holiday as Justice Sunday in their cities. The national volunteer recruitment goal is 20,000 persons committing a minimum of 50 hours each in specialized service related to justice during calendar year 2006. To assist in identifying ways to volunteer, each volunteer recruited will receive a copy of “To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith”

The annual theme for Justice Sunday, “*A Charge to Keep We Have: Service Before and Beyond,*” is quite symbolic. It evolves from the title and meaning of a hymn by Charles Wesley. David Lowes Watson, a contemporary Wesleyan scholar and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, suggests that “acts of compassion” and “acts of justice” may be a more contemporary translation of the “works of mercy” in their personal and social forms, and “works of piety” can be translated into “public acts of worship” and “private acts of devotion.” We have a responsibility (*a charge*) to keep (*make a commitment*).



# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks

## Honor Mrs Parks' Love For Youth - Become A Mentor



Are you looking for a way to make a difference? Research indicates that mentoring can play a valuable role in the lives of youth.

A mentor, namely you, could help to facilitate what might be one of the few pathways to freedom for a youth who might otherwise become enslaved in gangs and criminal activities.

We will honor Mrs. Parks by serving as peer mentors. We particularly encourage outreach to children whose parents incarcerated.

The Annual Justice Sunday National Recruitment Initiative will recruit volunteers who are willing to be screened and properly trained to share in the life of a child. A child can benefit tremendously by your response to the urgent need for qualified mentors. As a mentor, you and your mentee might share time, and as an idea, each of you may learn about participation in the Pathways to Freedom experience.



# DC and National Pathways Alumni To Launch Collaborative Efforts To Honor Mrs. Rosa L. Parks



## We Salute Mrs. Elaine Eason Steele

For many years, Mrs. Parks publicly acknowledged Mrs. Elaine Eason Steele as a valued friend and the co-founder of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. She remarked consistently of her loyalty and assistance. Entrusted by Mrs. Parks to act on her behalf in personal and professional matters, as alumni of Pathways, we now ask the nation to join us in honoring Mrs. Steele.

In cooperation with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice, during the Justice Sunday 2006 Campaign, we are pleased to recognize Mrs. Elaine Steele as the **National Servant of the Year**.

The event, to be announced and held in Washington, DC, will chronicle the exemplary acts of dedication extended by Mrs. Steele to Mrs. Parks and give public recognition for her leadership of the Institute and Pathways Program.

This event will highlight new initiatives as we have outlined in this publication. Our goal is to express our appreciation to Mrs. Steele and help to revitalize the dream she and Mrs. Parks envisioned for youth.



Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development  
65 Cadillac Square, Suite 2200  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
(313) 965-0606  
[www.rosaparks.org](http://www.rosaparks.org)

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National and DC-Based Pathways Alumni Partner Organizations

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Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization  
8314 Richville Drive  
Forestville, Maryland 20747  
(301) 336-4586  
[www.proinc.net](http://www.proinc.net)

National Alliance of Faith and Justice  
P.O. Box 77075  
Washington, DC 20013  
(703) 765-4459 Phone  
(703) 765-9761 Fax  
[www.nafj-nabcj.org](http://www.nafj-nabcj.org)

Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
CB Powell Building  
525 Bryant Street, Suite C142  
Washington, DC 20059  
[www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org)

“The world does not want and will never have the heroes and heroines of the past. What this age needs is an enlightened youth not to undertake the tasks like theirs, but to imbibe the spirit of the great men and answer the present call to duty with equal nobleness of soul.”

**Dr. Carter G. Woodson**



# Acknowledgments

The National and DC Alumni of the Pathways to Freedom Program wish to extend heartfelt sympathy and thanks to the family of Mrs. Rosa L. Parks and to Mrs. Steele for allowing the world to share in your grief

We offer our thanks to the following for their outstanding job in making the DC Memorial Tribute possible for Mrs. Rosa L. Parks and for allowing us to share in each facet of this historic event

Ms. Minyon Moore  
Ms. Donna Brazille  
and  
Ms. Anita Estell

We extend our sincere appreciation to the leadership and staff of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church for your assistance

The Reverend Ronald E. Braxton, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Kimberly Barnes, Clergy  
Sis. Jocelyn Harris  
Mr. Rollie Kimbrough, Steward Board Pro Tem  
Dr. Walter Ridley, Ebenezer AME Church

Thanks to the parents and to each of the following for their long-term support and coordination

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Saturday Academy Program

Mrs. Barbara Spencer Dunn, Executive Director  
Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization

Mrs. Lynda Sampson, Co-Founder  
Washington Area Pathways To Freedom Program

Mr. Carl Dunn  
Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization

Ms. Ella McCall Hagen  
Washington Area Pathways To Freedom Program  
*and to*

Ms. Addie L. Richburg, Director of Training and Administration  
National Alliance of Faith and Justice and Former National Coordinator for Pathways To Freedom

For the design and leadership of the Pathways to Freedom Memorial Tribute in Washington, DC



**Show your support for Rosa Parks: The Next Generation**



[www.rosaparks.org](http://www.rosaparks.org)

Local organizational support to Pathways to Freedom Alumni provided by Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization  
[www.proinc.net](http://www.proinc.net)