

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TENNESSEE STATE LEGISLATURE'S  
PROPOSAL TO NAME U.S. HWY 78 (LAMAR AVE.) AFTER ROSA L. PARKS**

**WHEREAS**, from time to time it is deemed fit to name certain highways and bridges in honor of those exemplary public servants who have worked with purpose and commitment to improve our society; and

**WHEREAS**, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late **Rosa Louise Parks**, who was actively involved in the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement and who serves as an inspiration for the continued advancement of freedom and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 1, 1955, **Rosa Parks** refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in the name of civil rights, which resulted in her arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, as a consequence to this courageous act, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregated public transportation unconstitutional, and this set the stage to dismantle other segregation laws; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mrs. Parks'** dedication to this celebrated cause inspired the formation of the Montgomery Improvement Association, headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was responsible for spearheading the 381 day-long boycott of the city-owned bus company; and

**WHEREAS**, she ignited the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement through her actions and served to inspire individuals throughout the world by promoting justice, equality and liberty, which the United States of America was founded on; and

**WHEREAS**, **Rosa L. Parks** was awarded the NAACP's highest honor in 1979, the Spingam Medal, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and was presented the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999 by President Bill Clinton; and

**WHEREAS**, these awards are a small testament to the work of this remarkable woman who is an exemplary model to every individual and embodies the idea of giving strength, unity and hope to a community; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway 78 (Lamar Ave.) begins in Charleston, South Carolina and routes through Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia to a terminus in Memphis, Tennessee; all of these being cities that played historic roles in the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement; and

**WHEREAS**, naming a portion of U.S. Highway 78 (Lamar Ave.) in Memphis, Tennessee in honor of the late **Rosa L. Parks** will be a constant reminder that every citizen has the potential to make a difference in the community and world.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Memphis City Council hereby supports the House Resolution sponsored by Representative G. A. Hardaway, Sr. in the Tennessee State General Assembly to name U.S. Highway 78 (Lamar Ave.) from the Mississippi border to its terminus the "**Rosa L. Parks Highway**" in honor of the extraordinary woman who served her fellow Americans with courage and conviction as Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement.