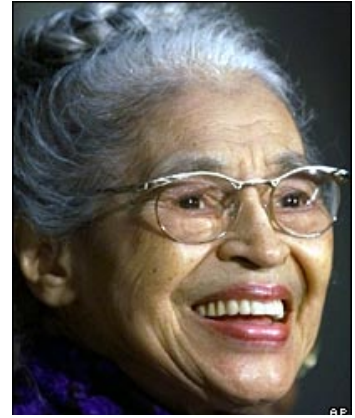


## US civil rights icon Parks dies

**Rosa Parks, the black woman whose 1955 protest action in Alabama marked the start of the modern US civil rights movement, has died at the age of 92.**



On 1 December 1955, Mrs Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama to a white man, defying the law. She was arrested and fined \$14.



Mrs Parks' protest inspired a generation of activists

Mrs Parks' refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a bus prompted a mass black boycott of buses, organised by Baptist minister Martin Luther King Jr.

His protest movement brought about the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which outlawed racial discrimination in the US.

"She sat down in order that we all might stand up - and the walls of segregation came down," civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said.

"The nation lost a courageous woman and a true American hero," Massachusetts Democrat Senator Ted Kennedy said.

"Her quiet fight for equality sounded the bells of freedom for millions," he said.

Speaking in 1992, Mrs Parks said of her famous bus protest: "The real reason of my not standing up was I felt that I had a right to be treated as any other passenger. We had endured that kind of treatment for too long."

She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honour, three years later.