



E-Newsletter | October 2016

Civil Rights Activists

The Navy is building a new submarine - the USS Arkansas - and the sponsors will be the six women who were members of the 'Little Rock Nine' - the nine students who integrated Little Rock, Arkansas' Central High School in 1957. These civil rights activists include Carlotta Walls Lanier (the youngest of the nine, who was fourteen). She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. In recognition of the Navy conferring this honor on the Little Rock Nine, this month we profile civil rights activists: Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer, both of whom have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Rosa Parks

Called the "mother of the civil rights movement", **Rosa Parks** took action the evening of December 1, 1955. On her way home from work, she was told to give up her seat to a white man. She refused. Parks said "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired but that isn't true. I was not tired physically. . . No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." Parks was arrested.

Parks became the test case against the segregation laws then on the books in Montgomery, Alabama. In addition, a boycott of the municipal bus system was organized for the day of the trial. The boycott lasted much longer than the day of the trial - in the end, over one year. It gained national and international attention and helped launch the career of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In

November of 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court found the segregation laws unconstitutional. Parks lost her job over these events and eventually she and her family moved to Detroit, Michigan. After many years in the office of Congressman Conyers, Parks established a foundation to serve Detroit's youth. Parks received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1999 and when she died, she became the first woman to lie in state in the nation's Capitol.



Fannie Lou Hamer

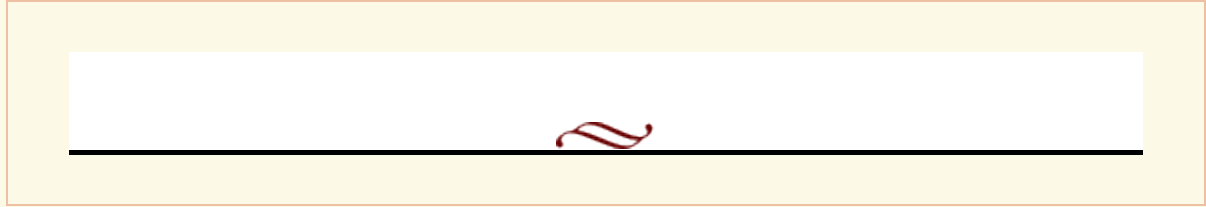
Although Parks claimed she was not tired, **Fannie Lou Hamer** was famous for saying "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired." In 1962, Hamer made a life-changing decision at the age of 45; she decided to register to vote. This action was not looked upon favorably in Mississippi, where Hamer was fired from her job. Her resolve stiffened, Hamer spent the rest of her life advocating for civil rights including working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helping to found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. In 1968, she became the first African-American since Reconstruction and the first woman ever to be seated as an official Mississippi state delegate at the Democratic National Convention.

Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Their accomplishments inspire us and remind us as well how important it is to continue to tell women's stories.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America
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