




Rosa Louise Parks Memorial Bus

On February 15, 2006, as part of Black History Month, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority dedicated its 1950's era historic bus #6512 in memory of Rosa Louise Parks. VTA also placed a plaque over the first row of seats to reserve them in honor of Parks' courage in the face of oppression.

Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama after refusing to relinquish her seat to a white passenger. Her actions tipped off the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for more than a year and eventually led to a Supreme Court decision requiring the desegregation of buses. Parks came to be known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

VTA chose to memorialize Mrs. Parks as part of the 2006 Black History Month because her act of civil disobedience was a watershed moment for the black community in this country and has become part of the fabric of our shared history.




**VTA celebrates Black History Month
and the legacy of Rosa Louise Parks.**

On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus and sparked the modern Civil Rights Movement in our Country.

Her courageous act of civil disobedience changed the course of history and continues to inspire us today.

"When Rosa Parks chose to sit where she sat, she made it possible for me to stand where I stand today."

Gordon Linton, Federal Transit Administrator
December 2005



About the historic bus

The Rosa Louise Parks Memorial Bus is a 45-passenger 1959 GMC TDH 4512-3263 coach, which has the distinction of being the last model 4512 built by General Motors Coach and Truck division in Pontiac Michigan. It is also the last paired window model ever built.

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It was delivered new to the San Jose City Lines in June of 1959 as part of the regular fleet. When delivered, it was painted white, green and pumpkin orange and received the fleet number 6512. In 1973 the Santa Clara County Transit District began operation and the coach was painted to the new paint scheme of all white with blue and orange stripes. It performed yeoman duty on various bus routes from 1973 to 1980 and was retired from service in February 1980.

In the early 1980's, it was saved for restoration to its original condition, including its colorful paint scheme. It was further restored in 1989 and in 1994 when it was repainted and received the metal wings and GM emblem on the front of the coach. Members of the Pacific Bus Museum assisted with the restorations in 1989 and in 1994, providing both expertise and parts. The Pacific Bus Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historical buses.

Operation

The Rosa Louise Parks Memorial Bus is located at VTA Cerone Division, 3990 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95134. VTA uses this bus for parades, displays and special events.