Claudette Colvin

Claudette Colvin, born **(September 5, 1939- January 13, 2026,)** in Birmingham, Alabama, was a courageous civil rights pioneer. At just 15, on March 2, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, months before Rosa Parks' famous protest. Though her act sparked interest, civil rights leaders chose Parks as the movement's face, citing Colvin's youth, pregnancy, and societal biases.

After her bold act of defiance in 1955, Claudette Colvin was arrested and faced intense scrutiny. Though she wasn't chosen as the face of the Montgomery bus boycott, she remained committed to the struggle. In Browder v. Gayle, her testimony helped lead to the Supreme Court ruling that desegregated buses.

Despite this, Colvin struggled with the "troublemaker" label in Montgomery, prompting her to relocate to New York City. There, she built a quiet life, working for decades in healthcare. In her later years, she received renewed recognition, with her record cleared in 2021. She passed away earlier this year, and today, Colvin's legacy is honored as a vital yet underrecognized force in the civil rights movement.