On MLK Day, communities all across the country will be celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is a day dedicated to encouraging and empowering Americans to work together to make a positive change in their communities.

**Word Scramble Key:** A. freedom, B. equality, C. segregation, D. discrimination, E. protest, F. boycott, G. justice, H. integrate, I. fairness, J. racism
Segregation was common in the South. This meant that public areas such as schools, rest rooms, water fountains, and restaurants had separate areas for black people and white people. This was also true of public transportation.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first large-scale U.S. demonstration against segregation. It was a key moment in the Civil Rights movement. Martin Luther King Jr., a young pastor, emerged as a civil rights leader.

It remains one of the most powerful stories of organizing and social change in U.S. history.

Although other people had been arrested for similar infractions, it was Rosa Park’s arrest on December 1, 1955, that sparked the protest against segregation.

Civil Rights Word Scramble

A. meefrd
B. yqiulte
C. gitnogeesar
D. dcnoimirsitan
E. tropset
F. tbotocy
G. uciejst
H. niteteagr
I. ssarifen
J. armsci
In March 1955, nine months before Parks arrest, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin dared to defy bus segregation laws.

She was forcibly removed from a city bus and arrested.

She was the first person to be arrested for challenging Montgomery’s bus segregation policies.

Instead of being taken to a juvenile detention center, she was taken to an adult jail and put in a small cell with nothing in it but a broken sink and a cot without a mattress.

In October 2021, Colvin (who is now 82) asked to have her criminal record expunged.

In 1955, she was convicted of assaulting a police officer while being arrested; she was placed on probation. She never received notice that she’d finished the term and was on safe ground, legally.

On December 17, 2021, her record was finally expunged by the Montgomery County Juvenile Court. This occurred sixty-six years after she had been wrongly labeled a delinquent for demanding to be treated with equal rights.

Reverend Robert Graetz was a white clergyman that supported the boycott.

He, his wife, and their three young children faced harassment and death threats. FBI agents urged them to leave Montgomery for their safety, but they stayed.

His house was firebombed three times. Fortunately, neither he, his wife, nor their children were injured, partially due to the fact that the third bomb never detonated.

He said during those dangerous years he played a game with his children. He encouraged them to duck behind the sofa if they were told to hide because of a strange noise outside.

Despite all he and his family endured, he said, “The privilege of standing up for righteousness and justice and love is greater than any other reward we might have received.”
Another unsung hero of the boycott was Georgia Gilmore. In October 1955, Gilmore boarded the bus and dropped her fare into the cash box. The driver screamed at her, “GET OFF! Enter through the back door!” She stepped off the bus, but before she could get back on, the driver sped off, leaving her stranded. She vowed never to ride the bus again.

Her love (and talent) for cooking, as well as her passion for racial equality, led her to start a club. Calling themselves the “Club from Nowhere,” the ladies in the club, most of them maids and cooks, sold homemade pies and cakes (and Georgia’s chicken dinners) to support and raise money for the boycott.

When asked where the money was coming from, Gilmore and the other women always said that the money came “from nowhere.”

Georgia’s sweet tea was served to Martin Luther King, Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke, Bobby Kennedy, and the laundresses and schoolteachers of Montgomery, Alabama who gathered around the Gilmore’s table. Georgia’s son, Mark says, “When she served this tea with her cornbread, nobody could refuse.”

Georgia’s Legendary Sweet Tea

2 cups cold water
3 family size tea bags
1 cup sugar
Lemon juice, to taste

Place the two cups water in a pot and add the tea bags. With an adult’s help, bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let it sit. Pour warm tea into empty pitcher. Add the sugar and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add water to the top of the pitcher. Add lemon, and let it sit overnight in the refrigerator.