

Civil rights
By Topacio Pulido

If I say the name Nannie Helen Burroughs would you recognize that name? How about Bayard Rustin or Pauli Murray? No would you recognize the name Ella Baker or even Claudette Colvin? I bet if I say Martin Luther King Jr or Rosa Parks you would be able to tell me who they are. The 5 people that I named were people who not many people have heard about but play an important part in the civil rights movement.

Nannie Helen Burroughs was born in 1878 and died in 1961 she applied for a teaching position in the District of Columbia Public School District but was rejected because she was so “too dark.” Only light skinned African Americans were able to be teachers. Even though Burroughs was rejected she later became an educator, religious leader, civil rights activist and business woman. She established a trade school for black high and junior college for girls in 1909.

Bayard Rustin was born in 1912 and died in 1987, he was the head organizer for the March on Washington and the mentor of Dr. King. He worked closely with Dr. King and a proofreader, ghostwriter, philosophy teacher and non-violence strategist. He worked as an influential adviser and he would support public attacks against his homosexuality.

Pauli Murray was a female leader for the civil rights movement that was born in 1910 and died in 1985. In 1940 Murray was arrested because she sat in the “whites only” section at a Virginia bus 15 years before Rosa Parks refused to give her seat up for a white male. After Murray was arrested she became interested in becoming a lawyer, she achieved her goal but was also the first African American to receive a Doctor of Juridical Science degree from Yale. In

1977 she became the first black woman to be ordained a priest within the Episcopal Church. Murray struggled with issues to her sexual and gender identity some scholars argue that she would have identified as a transman or genderqueer.

Ella Baker had a passion for social justice and equality because of the stories her grandmother would tell her. In 1931 Baker joined a Young Negroes' Cooperative League and became the groups national director. It's mission was to develop black economic power, she was the founder for Negro History Club at the Harlem Library in New York. She give lessons on consumer education, labor history and African history for the Worker's Education Project. Ella Baker influenced the Civil Rights Movement by organizing radical democracy and widespread local action. Ella was born in 1903 and died in 1986.

Lastly Claudette Colvin an African American girl that was born in 1939 and is still alive was the first person to refuse to give there seat up on a bus to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama. Nit many people know this because the NAACP did not publicize her protest against bus segregation. She was said to be "feisty," "emotional" and "mouthy" to be a symbol for the bus boycotts. Colvin became pregnant with a married man's child, at this time Colvin was only in high school. Her mother told her to let Rosa Parks be the symbol for the bus boycotts. Even though there was lack of credit for Claudette Colvin she was not mad about it.

These 5 people that helped in the civil rights movement even though there not as popular as Rosa parks or Martin Luther king Jr played an important part to the civil rights movement and because of them people today are treated with equality no matter there race.

All information here was from <https://www.parcast.com/blog/2016/12/21/-unsung-heroes-of-the-civil-rights-movement>.