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A TRUE HERO

STEVEN J. UHLFELDER*

During Thanksgiving week, two significant events occurred in Tallahassee; one joyous and the other sad. On November 21, Rosa Parks, the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement," was awarded an honorary degree at Florida State University. Just two days later, Florida State University Assistant Dean of Law, Steve Goldstein suddenly died of a heart attack at age 48.

Rosa Parks and Steve Goldstein were together at Florida State University for a few brief hours on November 21. In a world in which we are so desperately seeking role models and heroes, we were fortunate enough to have two such extraordinary people in our presence. Although they came from different backgrounds and different eras, Rosa Parks and Steve Goldstein were similar in so many ways.

Steve Goldstein possessed the same strength and courage. As a professor and Assistant Dean of the College of Law, he has always stood up for minorities, the disadvantaged, and the unprotected. As a volunteer supervising lawyer at the Volunteer Lawyers Resource Center, he ensured that the unrepresented had adequate counsel and were vigorously defended. His causes and clients were not always popular but his dedication and courage made lawyers proud that he was a member of the legal profession. Like Rosa Parks, Steve Goldstein also cared a great deal about young people, particularly students. He encouraged them to do their best and to never give up.

For a few moments during Thanksgiving week, Steve Goldstein and Rosa Parks were together at Florida State University. Even though Rosa Park's time in Tallahassee was too brief and Steve Goldstein's life too short, they both had a significant impact on Florida State University and our community. They both will be remembered for a very long time.

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