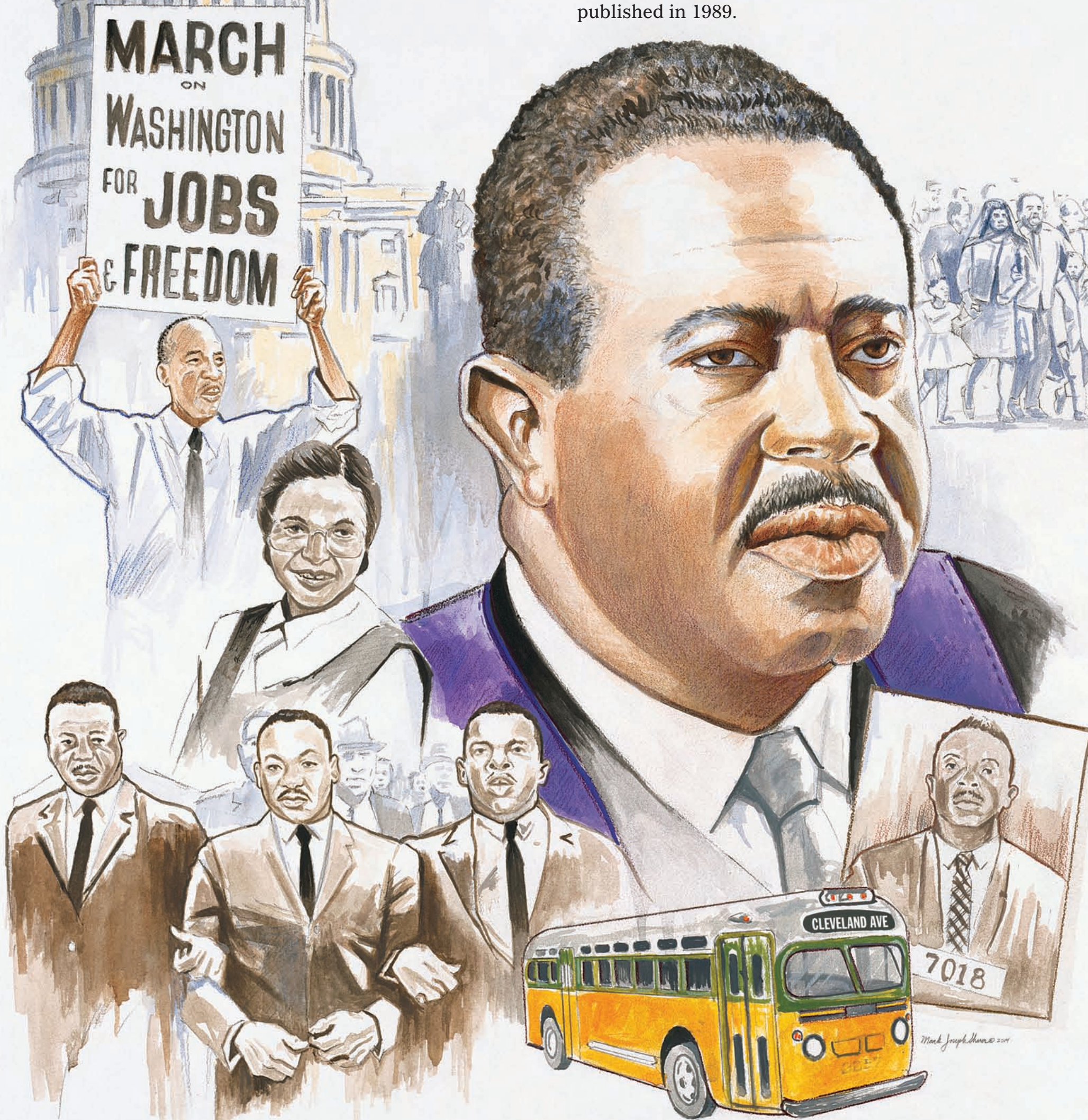


New York State United Teachers Celebrates

BLACK HISTORY

Ralph D. Abernathy (1926-1990) was a pastor and civil rights leader who helped launch the American Civil Rights Movement and was a key figure during its most turbulent years, 1955-1968. Working closely with his associate, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abernathy organized the 13-month-long Montgomery bus boycott, which desegregated the Alabama city's buses in 1956.

Abernathy also co-founded, with King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. It became an important southern civil rights organization, playing a major role in the 1963 March on Washington. Abernathy's autobiography, *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*, was published in 1989.



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NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, is proud of its history of working with the African-American community to advance the civil rights movement and to promote quality education and health care for all New Yorkers. For more on the important contributions of African-Americans, visit www.nysut.org.