

the time of that meeting, he had already made a profound impact on my life. It was because of his early work on the advancement of the Civil and Voting Rights Acts that I can stand here and address you today.

His grasp of the nuances and complexities of public policy, paired with his genuine personality, made him a dynamic presence in this Chamber. When he spoke, everyone—regardless of party or politics—listened. When he sang—like he did when we were jailed together following a nonviolent protest at the Embassy of Sudan—peace ensued. His stories captivated, his advice educated, his sermons inspired, and his speeches motivated. He brought the same passion he had as an activist to the halls of Congress, where he spent his career representing Georgia's 5th district.

It is impossible to properly eulogize John Lewis with only words—for he was a man of action. We would therefore all do well to reaffirm our commitment to the preservation of equality and justice in his honor, which is necessary now more than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer my condolences to John Lewis's family and to thank the Congressman for a life full of "good trouble."

Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, for so many of us, serving in the U.S. Congress is the achievement of a lifetime. But by the time John Lewis arrived to this chamber, he had already built a historic legacy, as one of the Greats of the Civil Rights Movement. A man of inspiration and hope, committed to the struggles of freedom and justice, John had to put himself on the line and defend social justice throughout his whole lifetime.

America has lost one of its great leaders. John never relented in fighting for what he felt was right, yet he always sought the good in others. Having suffered bigotry and violence, he would not let himself be dragged down by hate.

It is a privilege to me, to have been able to know and serve in Congress with such a champion of equality and civil rights. Humble as the truly great are humble, serene and kind, but John was strong in his convictions. In his office he displayed mementos of our nation's crude history of segregation and the events of the struggle that he still remembered as if it were yesterday. I was privileged to have conversations with him asking about his experiences, in which he gladly spent much longer time than the usual congressional meeting. In his gaze as he spoke you could see an inner peace that filled the room and seemed magical.

John Lewis always supported the right of Puerto Ricans to choose their own future and achieve full equality as American citizens, and I was able to count on him as cosponsor of the Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act (H.R. 4901). He also joined in our effort to recognize the valor and sacrifice in battle of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment as cosponsor of the measure to establish the 13th of April as National Borinqueneers Day.

In the same spirit of justice and equality, he asked me to be the Republican co-lead for the Every Child Deserves a Family Act (H.R. 3114), a piece of legislation that seeks to end discrimination in adoption and foster care agencies across the nation, forbidding discrimination against children, youths, families

and individuals on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity) and marital status in the management and delivery of child welfare services. I did not hesitate to say yes. Discrimination is discrimination whether you are talking political or social issues.

Representative Lewis' gallant defense of equality and justice extended to the struggle for the rights of the LGBTQ community. I was proud to join him in the Equality Act, which would extend by law the protection against discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act to LGBTQ individuals. The march towards true justice on which John Lewis spent his life goes on: it is up to us to continue it. There will be other bridges to cross, and his courage should inspire us to cross them, but always with love and care for all people.

May John's loved ones be comforted by the knowledge that his memory will continue to inspire many generations who are learning from his words, about inclusion and about fighting hatred with love. I Thank John (he never wanted me to call him Congressman or Mr. Lewis).

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor Congressman John Robert Lewis, our hero, our colleague, our brother, our friend.

Having known John for 52 years, I can tell you honestly that even in his humanity, he lived his life in the image of Jesus.

John was a voice of the voiceless—African Americans, for women, for LGBTQ people, for the least and the left out, for anyone mistreated by society.

His unwavering sense of right and wrong was a North Star for this Nation, which is why we called him the conscience of the Congress.

People as good as John don't come our way very often. Despite all of the accolades and recognition he received, John remained humble, unfailingly kind, and always fueled the capacity of people to be better, despite their past transgressions.

Where would America be today if it were not for John Lewis? Without his activism, without his courage, without his perseverance for voting rights, I doubt if I would be here today.

Thank you, John, for your lifetime of advocacy, for sacrifice of friendship and counsel.

And thank you, God, for the life of John Robert Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, John Lewis was certainly a leader amongst men. He was a mentor. He was a friend. And my heart goes out to his family. Our hearts go out to his family.

I can remember, Mr. Speaker, during the healthcare vote, I was coming out

of Cannon and I ran into John, and he asked: "How many votes do we have left, or how much time do we have left?" I said: "I think we will make it."

We crossed the street, along with his chief, Michael, and there were thousands of people yelling: "Kill the bill. Kill the bill. Kill the bill." And that wasn't it. They were yelling expletives, racial expletives, at the three of us.

And John looked at me and said: "Brother Andre, this reminds me of a darker time, brother."

John became a mentor. We would call him up, and he would speak to the Muslim community. We would call him up, and he would speak to the folks in Indiana who were there when it was announced that Dr. King had passed, because he was in Indianapolis at the time.

□ 1900

He was a true servant, Mr. Speaker. Jesus was mentioned. John was like Jesus. I am reminded of a Scripture when Jesus was having a conversation with his disciples about this notion of leadership, and Jesus looked at his disciples and said: He who wishes to be chief among you shall first be your servant.

John was a servant. He wasn't the kind of leader who looked at the protesters today and said: Oh, what you are going through is nothing compared to what we went through.

He stood in solidarity with those young folks and embraced those young folks like a real leader. John is an example to all of us, what true public servants should be.

We love you, John. God bless.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we make our living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. John Lewis certainly made a life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and outstanding legacy of our colleague, friend, mentor, and my hero, Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Growing up as a little girl in Selma, Alabama, John's incredible legacy was a hero's tale as familiar to me as any Bible story or family lore.

As a little girl singing in the choir, the children's choir at Brown Chapel AME Church, my home church, it was the church where John and so many wonderful foot soldiers would come time and time again to honor the legacy of the Bloody Sunday march.

But to know John was to know a man without ego, who, despite his many well-deserved accolades and successes, loved every person he met. He looked them in the eye. Can't you hear him? "My brother, my sister," he would say.

John loved this country more than any person who I have met, and it was his deep-seated patriotism that will live on.

His legacy, indeed, was the Voting Rights Act. And, we, in this body, can do something about that. Yes, we can

name things for John, but the biggest thing that we can do is rename H.R. 4. We should call it the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020 and fully restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That is the legacy of John Lewis.

He gave us the road map. Can't you hear him? Never give up, never give in. Keep your eyes on the prize. Keep the faith.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. George Washington Carver once said: How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong, because someday in your life you will have been all of these. That was our friend, John Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, America has lost a national treasure, one of the world's greatest fighters and defenders of freedom and justice. Congressman LEWIS' words and work and legacy will live forever.

I am so fortunate to have traveled to Africa with him and to have marched in my hometown with him. You see, Mr. Speaker, when Mr. LEWIS spoke, you heard the voice of history, a voice that helped stir the conscience of America at a time of ugliness and struggle, but also at a time and in an era of hope and accomplishment.

My colleagues, there is no greater time for us to stand up against injustices that we are facing, no greater time for us to fight for justice and fairness at the ballot box. So, my colleagues, let us make some noise. Let us get in trouble, good trouble.

God bless you. Rest in peace. Rest in power, my friend. Good trouble.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to share my letter to Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Dear John, I hope you knew how incredibly honored I was to call you colleague and to serve with you. It was such a great privilege to watch you in action and listen to your stories.

When we planned the sit-in, being a part of the Fab 5 made me so proud. It took a while to get the bill out of the House, but we finally did it. I promise you, when I encounter a situation that is just not right, I will stand up, speak out, and get in the way.

I plan to carry a piece of you with me forever. I know I will be a better person for it. I hope you, C.T. Vivian, Martin, Rosa, Edgar, Robert Kennedy, and others are having a fabulous reunion.

Rest in power, my friend, until we meet again.

Love, Robin.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 22 minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, just this year, I remember John urging

Americans to "get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America," as we combat some of the most hateful messages and priorities driven by this current administration.

Today, I stand here and, John, I promise that I will continue to carry out your legacy, to get into good trouble and to ensure that the fight for equality and justice lives on, and to challenge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same and pass the Voting Rights Act.

John, rest in peace. Rest in power. You have been a good and faithful servant.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a truly great American and a real-life hero.

I was fortunate enough to have him as a colleague for 4 years. Congressman John Lewis has been an inspiration to me at a very young age.

I remember the first time I saw him was on the evening news. He was walking across the Pettus Bridge. I felt very strongly about him and what he was doing. I was 10 years old, and I found him to be inspiring. He was purposeful. He was driven to make a difference. He was driven to make some good trouble.

Now, we must carry on with the work of civil rights and equal opportunity.

Rest in power, Congressman LEWIS.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2016, a lone gunman walked into the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle. That night, the shooter killed 49 people and injured 53 others. At the time, it was the largest mass shooting in American history.

The Pulse nightclub is in my district, but I was not in Congress at the time. When I saw the Members of Congress taking to the floor and holding a sit-in, I was not surprised that the person leading the way was Representative John Lewis. To him, the victims were a part of the big family John Lewis often spoke about.

Thank you, John, for never discriminating. Thank you, John, for never leaving people behind.

Galatians 5 defines the fruit of the spirit as love, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. John Lewis was all of that to the House, to the Nation, and to the world, and I am grateful for his friendship and his counsel and grateful for a life well-lived.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we stand in this great Chamber and mourn our friend, a civil rights icon and the conscience of Congress.

John Lewis towered over his era, and his loss is deeply felt across this coun-

try and across the globe. From marching for freedom in Montgomery to being beaten and bloodied on a bridge in Selma, John's life showed us all the fundamental need for good, necessary trouble.

As John would often say:

We have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do what we can to make our country and our world a better place and to help usher in a loving community where no one is left out or left behind.

His words and his life ring through eternity.

We will honor John's legacy with an unshakeable determination to fight for what is right and what is just. He served the Nation in love. Rest in peace, my friend. We love you. I love you.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I request the amount of time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlemen from Georgia has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME).

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, as we have been hearing and continue to hear, the passing of John Lewis represents a loss for America of one of our greatest heroes and, for many of us, a dear and old friend.

John and I were sworn in together in this Chamber 33 years ago as classmates in the 100th Congress. There were only four African Americans elected to Congress that year, he, myself, Floyd Flake of New York, and Mike Espy of Mississippi. We huddled with John here on the floor, and he made all of us hug each other. He said: We got here in different ways, but we are one band of brothers now.

The passion and the equality that he carried with him throughout his life, as we know, never waned. His untiring quest for justice never faltered. With a big heart for compassion, John, like his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was unawed by opinion, unswayed by flattery, and undismayed by disaster.

Born in an area of Jim Crow and vile and vicious segregation, he defied the limitedness of others' expectations.

John knew that politics changed people, so he set out early to change politics.

□ 1915

Everything about him pointed to the fact that he was emblematic of that great band of freedom fighters who realized that freedom wasn't free.

In this era where everyone seems to be searching for the next big thing or the next great thing, isn't it odd, Mr. Speaker, that the greatness of John Lewis was with us all along? We needed only to look as far as the latest movement for social change to find it.

We are sad today, but heaven is rejoicing, and John has claimed his final reward.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that service is the rent

we pay for the space we occupy on this Earth. John Lewis paid his rent, and he paid it well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. A Freedom Rider unshaken by threats and violence, a leader in the struggle for voting rights who kept fighting even after a broken skull, a courageous American undeterred by more than 40 arrests after standing up for what is right, John Lewis spent his life fighting injustice and racism.

If it weren't for the bravery of John and men and women like him, many of us wouldn't be in this Chamber today. And as a Black man, I am not sure I would have had the same rights as my fellow countrymen.

John shaped this country in immeasurable ways. He never sat by when he saw injustice. He never stopped fighting.

At a time when America is so divided, we should look at John's courage for inspiration; we should look at John's bravery for imitation; and we should look at John's words and follow them.

I lost a mentor. John's family lost a father, son, brother, and husband. Our country lost an American hero.

Rest in peace, my brother.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

What a void we feel tonight. I rise to honor the life and legacy of a great warrior for peace and justice, a kind and gentle human being, the conscience of the Congress, Congressman John Lewis.

As a giant of, as our whip indicated, a civil rights movement, John's leadership and his courage continued as an extraordinary congressional leader. Every year, I joined John on his annual pilgrimage to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Alabama. I brought young people from the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center in my district and my grandchildren each year to learn about and give thanks to the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement.

John always took time to meet with these young people. Even this year, with his failing health, he pulled them aside. He met with them. He always wanted to, and he did, inspire them to take that baton and to run the next lap of the race for justice and equality. And, yes, like with so many, he blessed my community by coming to my district to continue these efforts with my young people.

Last year, Speaker PELOSI and Chairwoman BASS led a delegation to Ghana, West Africa, to observe the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans brought to America. John said that Ghana was one of the most moving trips of his life. He said: "To see and behold the inhumanity during another period of our history, it tells each and every one of us to never let this evil happen again."

Now, John was welcomed in Ghana as royalty, which he was. He was honored as a son of Africa who had come home.

John and I would compare notes on tough votes, such as on matters of war and peace and defense spending. I will miss his wise counsel and admonition—and, really, admonition—to do the right thing as he told all of us to keep our eyes on the prize.

Now, Members know how we get agitated when our colleagues poach our staff members. Well, John poached a brilliant and wonderful young woman from my office Jamila Thompson. When he told me about it, believe it or not, for the first time, I was thrilled that one of my staff members had been poached by John Lewis. What an honor.

John's presence in the people's House will be deeply missed, but one of the greatest tributes to Congressman John Lewis would be to restore the Voting Rights Act.

I would not be standing here as the 100th Black Member of Congress had it not been for the Honorable John Robert Lewis.

My deepest condolences and love and gratitude to John's family, Michael Collins, Jamila Thompson, his entire phenomenal staff, and his constituents, and to all those whose lives he touched. Let us continue to build the beloved community that he so eloquently spoke of.

In closing, I am reminded of a Scripture, 2 Timothy 4:7: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

As John Lewis' soul returns to his Creator, may he rest in peace, may he rest in power.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the close of this first hour of tribute to our friend and our colleague and our hero, John Robert Lewis, I leave you with the words of Douglas Malloch, who wrote:

The tree that never had to fight
For Sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.
The man who never had to toil
To gain and farm his patch of soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of Sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.
Good timber does not grow in ease;
The stronger wind, the stronger trees;
The further sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By Sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men, good timbers grow.
Where thickest lies the forest growth,
We find the patriarchs of both.
And they hold counsel with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife,
This is the common law of life.

John Robert Lewis was indeed good timber. God bless his soul. May he rest in peace and in power.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor this evening to manage the time that we have on the Republican side to celebrate and remember the life of our tremendous colleague, Mr. John Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, I was very moved, having the opportunity to watch my colleagues on the other side of the aisle discuss and describe the impact that Congressman Lewis had on their lives, on all of our lives, and on this Chamber. I am struck by the fact that as we gather tonight in this Chamber, we rise not as representatives of two different political parties, but we rise as elected representatives of this great Nation, a Nation that is mourning the loss of a great American, and as honored colleagues of a man, John Lewis, who dedicated his life to service and to the fight for justice and freedom.

John Lewis taught us: "Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society. Why? Because human beings are the most dynamic link to the divine on this planet."

John Lewis understood that one man or woman can make a difference—indeed, that it is only the determined and principled action of committed men and women that brings change.

He knew the blessings of this Nation, and he knew what it took to secure those blessings for all Americans. He knew that the fight was unfinished.

Mr. Speaker, the day that I was sworn into this body for the first time, I was standing just outside these doors in the Speaker's lobby. I had just arrived with my dad, who joined me on the floor that day. By chance, as we were coming in, we met John Lewis standing in the lobby. The three of us had the chance before the ceremony to spend some time together.

The two of them didn't agree on much, but they did agree on certain critical things. They agreed on the exceptional nature of this country, on the magnificence of this, the people's House, and on the incalculable blessings of freedom.

I am blessed by the memory of that day, and I am blessed that at that moment when I was about to be sworn into this House, I was able to spend time with those two men.

Writing of his experiences fighting for civil rights, John Lewis said this: "Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its