

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

part to create an even more fair, more just society.”

Great men and women like John Lewis in every generation have known this, that we all have an obligation to defend our freedom, to fight for it, to do our part to be worthy of the sacrifices of those who have gone before.

One of the greatest gifts we can give to young people today is to teach them that lesson, to teach them our history, to convey to them the duty, the obligation, and the incredible blessing of being an American and of working to make sure that we pass this Nation to our children and our grandchildren more perfect than it is today.

Our colleague, Congressman John Lewis, dedicated his life to that ideal. His memory will be a blessing and an example to us all, our colleagues, his colleagues, here in the House, to his family, to his constituents, and to his fellow Americans.

God bless John Lewis, and God bless the United States of America.

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

MEMORIALIZING THE HONORABLE JOHN LEWIS

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to participate in this Special Order, and I will look forward to hearing from our speakers in honoring the great John Lewis.

Over this past weekend, America lost not only a civil rights icon but also a loving father, a loving husband, a caring friend to this entire House body, Congressman John Lewis.

Mr. Lewis' courage and strength in the face of oppression are unmatched. His contributions to America's soul are paramount to the progress that we have made in our histories.

His experience on Bloody Sunday left him battered, covered in blood, and on the side of the road in Selma, Alabama, yet he carried on with his unifying message for America.

Many years ago, John Lewis crossed the monumental Edmund Pettus Bridge, fighting for freedom and a path toward achieving what our Founding Fathers had pledged but fell short to uphold.

I was extremely honored to have the opportunity 54 years later to walk across this very bridge in Selma, and we all honored the brave steps he led, rallying an entire Nation. The fact that I was asked to give the closing remarks at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery is something, frankly, I will always treasure.

John Lewis' protest inspired our Nation to not only do better but to reflect on all of our actions. Through his grace and humility, he made monumental

progress. He liked to refer to these acts as “good trouble.”

While we don't share many of the same political opinions, there was never a doubt in my mind that Congressman John Lewis lived his entire life fighting for our country and the American people.

He gave us all hope, hope that we could get over this partisan divide, hope that we could get over the divisions of the past to paint a brighter future.

May we never lose that spirit and forever honor his legacy by never letting the forces of division, hatred, and evil tear down those bridges that so many of us have sacrificed to build.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the minority whip.

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Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), for yielding.

I join with my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, who mourn the loss of John Lewis.

We have so many honors to be able to serve in a job like this where we get to represent the people of this Nation, especially here in the people's House where we truly do bring all of the different elements of what makes America great into one body with people who represent every different type of background and every different kind of community, the kinds of people we get to serve with.

There are giants among the people we have the honor of serving with. John Lewis was at the top of that list, and you knew it when you served with him.

I remember telling colleagues years ago that, while we have our differences, it is really important to go get to know especially some of the legends, the giants we serve with in this body.

I remember talking about two Members in particular: it was John Lewis and Sam Johnson, one Democrat, one Republican, two people who were just giants. Unfortunately, we have now lost both of them in the last year.

Our institution is better because John Lewis was a part of this great body, but it is what John fought for his whole life.

I know my colleague from North Carolina as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus talked about, earlier, his mantra of “good trouble.” What John experienced in his life, there are so many people who have freedoms today they would never have if John hadn't gone through that.

I had an honor, like so many of my colleagues, to go with John, he invited Members from both parties to go to Selma to be a part of reliving that history, which was a dark side of our history, Bloody Sunday, but one that John used as a teachable moment to bring people from all parts of this country to walk across that Edmund

Pettus Bridge. I got to walk arm in arm with John. It was one of the great honors I have had as a Member of Congress to be able to do that.

The whole time we were walking with him—this could be a moment that John wanted to just leave in his past because he was so brutally beaten, but he wanted to share the experiences. And as we were walking, we would round the corner, and he would point to different buildings. And he said: That is where we gathered. That is where some of the people who were trying to stop us would be.

He helped organize the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC. He started at a young age in the civil rights movement, at a time when it was not only difficult, but it was possibly life-threatening. And for many, they did lose their life in that battle.

And John lost blood. He shed blood for the cause. But he never took it as a moment to get down. He never took it as a moment to be bitter.

He wanted to continue fighting to make America a more perfect Union, and he did. And that is what we will remember about John. We will remember his warm-hearted spirit.

John was one of those very few people in a body like this where, when he stood at the podium to speak, no matter what side you were on on that issue, you stopped, you sat down, and you listened, because you knew you were listening to somebody who was larger than life.

John is in a better place right now, but America is a better place because John was here.

God bless John Lewis and his family. Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of a beloved colleague and wonderful friend, John Lewis.

I first met John when my husband, Bob Matsui, was a Member of Congress. Bob loved John. He loved him for his humanity, his conviction, and the fact that he was a total human being.

I had heard so much about John because he was a historic figure, but I saw another side of him, too, when Bob brought him to Sacramento. He met many people. And I remember his walking across a university campus with the president of the university when he ran across, Bob and he and John, a bunch of chickens that the students were advocating to keep on campus. The president was saying: No. We have got to get the chickens out.

The president said: Excuse me, Mr. Lewis, but we are going to get rid of those chickens.

And John said: No way are you going to get rid of those chickens. I learned to preach by preaching to chickens.

That is the part of John that I really loved, too, that humorous part, the part you can laugh with.

But this gentle giant lived also every single day to overcome injustice, eradicate racism, and give hope to all who