

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.

□ 1930

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

walked beside him. He is a total person.

At this moment in our history when speaking truth to power is so vital, it is more important than ever to follow John's words, to "stand up, speak out, and keep your eyes on the prize."

John taught us all that America is greater than the sum of its parts. When you weave a rich, colorful tapestry, the weaving itself makes it strong. His impact will be forever felt in our Nation's conscience, and we are all better for it.

At this difficult time, my prayers are with the Lewis family and all his friends. He will be sorely missed.

I love you, John.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON), our deputy whip. It only makes sense to go first to John Lewis' colleagues in the delegation from Georgia.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for allowing me to do this.

I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of John Lewis.

John dedicated his life to equality and justice, and the Nation we are so blessed to live in is better because of his work and his sacrifice.

John was driven by his deep faith, his servant heart, and his love of his fellow human being. While John was always right to fight for legal changes to make America better, he ultimately knew that how you treated your fellow human being was a matter of the heart.

John led by example. He led by showing love and grace to all people. He showed love and grace even to those people who disagreed with him or showed him contempt.

John was always willing to offer forgiveness to those who had done him wrong, knowing that forgiveness was fundamental to building a relationship built on trust and love.

Two of my most vivid memories and treasured experiences here in my time in Congress involved John.

One was a dinner at his house. He invited the Georgia delegation over, and he retold the story of his life and experiences in the civil rights movement. What a cherished memory and experience.

The second was the night that we honored another Georgia giant here, former House Member and former U.S. Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON. I remember the night that JOHNNY ISAKSON and John Lewis met in the center and embraced in true love, friendship, and respect. It was truly an amazing moment.

John was an amazing man, and I believe that the only thing John Lewis ever hated was hate itself.

Rest in peace, our dear friend.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Congressman John Lewis, an American hero, a dear friend.

He taught us what patriotism is, that to love our country is to acknowledge and work to repair its imperfections.

Congressman Lewis endured angry mobs, death threats, and so much violence with endurance, persistence, and even warmth and optimism. Surely we can honor his remarkable life by coming together to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, to ensure our laws reflect that Black lives matter.

Advocating for the Nation's marginalized throughout his life, acting as the conscience of Congress during his 34 years of service, he inspired generations of Americans to get in "good trouble."

I remember sitting on the floor with John. Rather than sitting in the chair, we were proving our point and all sitting on the floor.

He has taught us so much with his sweet, sweet manner, but the strength of his conviction.

We must honor Congressman Lewis' legacy by striving to achieve the equitable and just society for all that he fought so hard to attain. In the words of John himself, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?"

Dear, sweet, kind John, we will miss you. We love you. May you rest in peace.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for yielding to me to speak about my friend and colleague, Congressman John Lewis, a man that I loved.

I will miss dearly him saying, "I love you too, brother."

There is no telling how many times John Lewis told the people of this House, "I love you too, brother." He looked at everybody, no matter who you were, as a brother.

I selfishly thought about how much I was going to miss him and seeing him and Michael Collins on a Delta ready to fly up here. I always got a kick out of the fact that people from my district would sit down next to me and say: Did you see John Lewis on the plane? And, by the way, what do you do?

That was just the way people loved John Lewis.

There is not a person walking in this country today who didn't benefit from John Lewis and what he did for mankind, and I would venture to say that the majority of the people in the world benefited from his love and what he did.

I thought about a few passages. We have talked about him preaching to the chickens, and maybe we are the chickens he was preaching to his whole life.

I remembered the Beatitudes:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they should be called the children of God.

If there was ever a peacemaker that I met, it was John Lewis.

Following from there:

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

A little further into the book of Matthew:

Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in Heaven.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that John Lewis was a special man. He was a special man of God. And while his bones may rest, his legacy will live on forever in this body.

I, for one, look very forward to the day that a statue of John Lewis rests in the Halls of this Congress representing not only the great State of Georgia and the people of the State of Georgia, but all of the men and women of the United States.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCOTT for his comments tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with John Robert Lewis' passing, we lose and deeply mourn a great friend and mentor, and the world loses the most respected "good trouble" maker of our time.

John's standing will only grow as his legacy endures.

Mr. Speaker, every year since I have been in Congress, I asked John to speak to entering high school seniors from San Diego who visited our Capitol as part of an in-depth civics and leadership program; and for 20 years, with each new group of 45 very diverse students, he gave his time, his energy, and his wisdom, graciously answering their many spirited questions. They, too, will never forget him and how he changed them. Here is just a brief example:

Alejandra Cordova, from 2001, said Mr. Lewis taught her "not to be afraid to rock the boat every once in a while."

David Hickman, from 2015, said he "truly showed us what it meant to be a change-maker, to live through our actions and speak up against injustice."

He taught our children well.

John, you taught and changed me and everyone you touched. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Michael Collins and all of John's staff, who had the hardest task of all to say to visitors captured by John's words: "I am sorry, but the Congressman must depart now."

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), a fellow pastor.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), my good friend, for yielding to me.

There is no question that all of us who have served with John Lewis mourn the passing of this towering figure who devoted his life to fighting for freedom and equality.

□ 1945

An interesting perspective of his life, as a son of Alabama sharecroppers, John Lewis demonstrated that, in America, a single individual, even one

coming from the most humble of backgrounds, can have an enormous impact in this country.

We all know that he rose to be a powerful leader in the civil rights movement; worked very closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and so many other great heroes who sacrificed their lives to ensure that Americans of all races live in liberty in this country. But he did so peacefully.

He once wrote this, and this has a great, powerful meaning. He said: "Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won."

John Lewis knew that it was necessary to fight the sins of this country; but he understood also to fight those in a nonviolent way.

I just have the deepest respect for John Lewis, and I am honored to have considered him a dear friend.

I just want to thank all my colleagues this evening for joining in this time to honor such a great man and an icon, obviously, particularly in the civil rights movement.

My wife, Dee Dee, and I continue to pray for the Lewis family. Again, I thank all my colleagues for joining tonight.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina for allowing me several minutes to pay my respects to a great man.

And it is not remiss that I see the Speaker pro tempore; it is very appropriate that you are in the seat tonight, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Lewis. He was an American icon, civil rights legend, and dear friend and an inspiration to millions. Yet, these words truly fail to describe the difference he made in our country.

He always spoke of "getting into good trouble," and I know that has been echoed here on numerous occasions, but it sums up what Mr. Lewis was all about.

His efforts led to the Civil Rights Act. His efforts led to the Voting Rights Act. And his efforts led to the Congressional Black Caucus, and even the election of President Barack Obama.

But his loss is more than his legacy. For me, once again, I have lost one of my fathers on the floor of Congress. He was a role model for what makes a great Congressman, and I constantly watched as he moved about his business: Like the way he always fought for the right thing; the way he could convey such power and strength through such a gentle demeanor.

But when he had passion, and was committed, there is no one else on this floor you would rather have with you going into that fight.

And the way he stood up to abuse to make this country a better place. One of my greatest honors was to be a part of the sit-in he led on the House floor to fight for gun control legislation after the terrible, dreadful Florida issue. We got into some good trouble that day.

He inspired us then, and his words and deeds will inspire new generations; whether they are civil rights pioneers, elected officials, or any American with a dream or cause.

God bless you, Mr. Lewis. Your life made our country and our world a better place.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, may I get a time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

MR. ALLEN. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for this privilege.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans learned about the civil rights movement in the news or read about it in history books. John Lewis lived it.

One of my greatest memories here was to have dinner with Congressman LEWIS at his home, where he shared with the entire Georgia delegation his experience in leading the civil rights movement.

He shared with me that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayed with them on those buses before the demonstrations and urged everyone to remain at peace to ensure lasting change.

I know we can all learn from the example Congressman Lewis set as a civil rights icon. We must meet injustice with humility and perseverance to do what is right.

Pride and fear are the opposite of humility. John Lewis and all those in this movement demonstrated perfect love while being persecuted. Perfect love casts out all fear and only comes from God and obedience to His word and was perfectly demonstrated at the cross of Jesus Christ.

My wife, Robin, and I pray that his family finds peace during this difficult time. And this is a lesson for this body as we honor those like John Lewis, who have come before us and fought for an America that is stronger and is unified, by putting aside our differences to serve the American people in perfect love.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), with his own amazing civil rights history.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time.

I say to the gentleman from North Carolina that I remember that the last time I saw John Lewis was March 5, his birthday; and the gentleman offered the prayer. That meant a lot to me, and it showed me the respect that you had for him and that he had for you. It was a beautiful moment.

There was not a more perfect person that has probably served in the Con-

gress and, certainly that I have known in my life, than John R. Lewis. He had every quality that you would desire in a human being and couldn't even imagine a person to have them altogether.

He was a hero of the civil rights movement and cared greatly about the injustices that he had seen as an African American, and that is what launched him on his civil rights struggles. But once he got moving, it was people of different issues of discrimination that he championed; whether it was gay and lesbian; whether it was Native Americans; whether it was women, or just simple people being victims of gun violence, John Lewis took up the cause and he stood up for everybody.

He did not know color. He did not know gender. He did not know any differences in people. He loved all people.

It was such an honor to serve with him.

Early in my career, the American Bar Association presented the Day Award to John Lewis, Richard Lugar and myself. The award was nothing compared to the fact that I was with John Lewis that day. It made me feel much greater than I ever could become.

I had the great honor to travel with him to South Africa for the 50th anniversary of Robert F. Kennedy's Ripple of Hope speech in Cape Town. I saw and I sat across from he and Bishop Desmond Tutu, and I knew I was seeing two angels together, two special souls united.

Mr. Lewis loved two people in life that were his heroes; one was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the other was Robert Kennedy. The purpose of that speech on that trip was to honor Robert Kennedy and the 50th anniversary of that speech.

In that speech, Robert Kennedy said: "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Robert Kennedy might as well have been speaking about John Lewis that day in 1964, because that is what John Lewis did; and he was more than a ripple of hope, he was a tsunami of hope. He was in every good cause there was, and he sacrificed himself physically in South Carolina, in Alabama, in Mississippi, for civil rights. And he sacrificed himself even when he was a Member of Congress for different causes, getting arrested.

And when he was on death's doorstep, he got himself to Washington, D.C., to appear at Black Lives Matter Plaza and give hope and encouragement and support to the young people that were striving for the causes that he had strived for his whole life.

I value every single moment I spent with Congressman Lewis. It was an honor to know him. I miss him.

And just the other day, I looked up at the scoreboard, and when I didn't know quite how to vote on some issues, I would look to John Lewis and see how he voted. And he wasn't there.

He was my hero.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), another one of Mr. Lewis' colleagues.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in our lives there are people and places we remember. I will always remember John Lewis.

There are some people that you feel especially honored to have met. You feel like you are one of the lucky ones who had the opportunity to hear their stories, to learn their convictions, and to feel their triumphs. I believe just about anyone who had the opportunity to meet John Lewis would agree that he is one of those people.

He was born the son of sharecroppers. He grew up on his family farm, and he attended segregated public schools in Alabama. He told the story often, and I remember him telling us this story, about how he used to preach to the chickens.

He went on from that humble beginning to be called one of the most courageous persons the civil rights movement ever produced, a title he rightfully deserved.

John Lewis dedicated his entire life to securing equality and justice for all people, while remaining a devoted advocate for nonviolence. It must have been an incredible blessing for him to see how his fight changed our Nation and the entire world with his own eyes.

For me, it was a blessing to know him. His office was over in the Cannon Building for many years, and my office was in the Cannon Building. And oftentimes, as we were walking over here, I would get to walk with him. I hung on every moment, on every word, just to have the opportunity to spend time with someone like John Lewis. I will always be grateful for those walks.

Many of my colleagues in the Georgia Delegation have mentioned the time that he invited us to dinner at his home here in Washington. What great stories he told that night; truly, one of the greatest experiences I have had while I have been up here in Washington, D.C.

John Lewis was a giant among men. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on forever.

□ 2000

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, sharing a jail cell with John Lewis was one of the greatest privileges of my life.

When we were arrested for protesting the genocide in Darfur a few years back, we were put into a police van,

booked, and fingerprinted. John had been arrested over 40 times for peaceful protests by that point, so let's just say he had some advice.

John made trouble like this because he knew that words aren't enough and that real change requires action. He called it the struggle of a lifetime, but it was never his struggle alone. He challenged all of us to fight injustice and oppression and to stand up for civil rights and for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, John was a great man. He was an American hero who called our country to a higher standard. But perhaps more importantly, he was a very good man. He treated every single person he met, no matter who they were, with dignity and respect. When he saw wrong in this world, he did his best to make it right.

Lisa, Patrick, Molly, and I miss you already, John. We love you, and we will never stop making good trouble in your name.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, John Lewis has a true legacy of leadership in this House, and he changed the world that we live in.

When Congressman Lewis would take the podium, everyone in this House would fall silent and listen to him. I doubt in his long career in this House that the Speaker ever had to hammer the House into order to listen to John Lewis speak.

A man who fought for the Voting Rights Act, John Lewis' legacy demands that Congress act. I call on Congress to pass and send to the President's desk for signature the bipartisan H.R. 1799 renewing the Voting Rights Act.

Congressman Lewis was a giant in history, but he was a humble man in this House. He treated every Member the same and with dignity. He will be missed.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this hour to honor one of the most beautiful human beings that ever walked this Earth. Many of us believe in God, and many of us try to be the best that we can be, but few of us are capable and able to live a life of true love and of tremendous dignity and respect for every single person who comes our way.

I wish I could learn how to turn my cheek the way John Lewis proved he could and did.

I mourn his passing, but I celebrate the honor of knowing that he lived and also knowing that I could go to him on the floor of this House or in the hallways of Congress and speak with him, learn from him, and then say "I love you, brother," and then to have him tell me—and I selfishly relished the opportunity to hear him say it—"I love you too, brother," as I gave him a hug and he hugged me back.

I am unfortunate that I grew up in a very strict household where my mother

and father only said "I love you" to the big boys and girls and adults very few times. Once we got off their knee, it just didn't happen very often. But John Lewis reminded me how much I missed that, and in a selfish way, that is one of the reasons why I always rushed to him and asked him, by saying "I love you," to know that he would say "I love you" and with all his heart mean it.

I am going to miss him. Some of my family members were fortunate to meet him and to know him, and I feel blessed to know that he was my friend as well.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind if we can keep the remarks about 1 minute, we will get as many as we can in tonight.

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember my friend, the civil rights pioneer, Congressman John Lewis, a true gentle giant among us.

He walked the talk, and we watched him walk the talk in these Halls of Congress for many years, from his years as a student at Fisk University to his last days as one of the most influential Members of Congress.

He didn't let bad actors and people who were trying to do him harm or even cancer slow him down from his fight for equality until the very end.

He led many Members of Congress on that march in Selma, a civil rights pilgrimage that my husband and I were honored to join him on a couple of years ago when we went to Memphis, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma. He walked the talk and walked with us and shared with us the memories of that painful journey for him and all of those students and all the people that he led across that bridge. He took our hands, and we all walked together.

He then later that year came to Indianapolis, where he was the keynote speaker because our community celebrated the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative becoming a national historic site. Indianapolis was the site where Senator Robert Kennedy informed our city that Dr. Martin Luther King had been killed on that night 50 years ago.

It was in Indianapolis, in 1968, that John Lewis learned from Robert Kennedy about Dr. King's death. Dr. King was his friend, his mentor, and his hero. He had not been to this park in Indianapolis for 50 years, yet he came there as the keynote speaker. He brought together our community—Democrats, Republicans, Hispanics, African Americans, and White. Everyone stood together to hear his words, to honor him, and to pay tribute to his legacy, to the legacy of Dr. King, and to the legacy of Senator Robert Kennedy.

John was our friend. He walked the talk. He is walking in Heaven now. He is showing us all how to walk the talk, and now it is up to us to not let him down.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, Congressman John Lewis was the embodiment of human prosperity as measured by love. Not only was he the richest man I have ever known, but he was absolutely the most generous. John Lewis gave out love and, boy, did love come back. He was always showering people in love.

When I saw him in Kentucky long before I knew I would ever join this Chamber at the encouragement of a friend from Georgia, he was talking about Comic-Con and that his new book with pictures, "March," had just come out.

We have so much work to do. John Lewis, we will heed your words. We will not despair. We will look up. We will keep moving and marching forward. We will pass that Voting Rights Act. And we will remain dedicated to your pursuits.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, last week, our country lost a fearless fighter and hero for civil rights, and we in this Chamber lost a colleague and a friend.

Representative John R. Lewis' sense of fairness and of right and wrong was always ahead of his time. That sense of fairness extended to all civil rights issues.

His willingness to support opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act to add protections for the LGBTQ community was critical and personally incredibly meaningful to me. My colleague and I, over my term in Congress, found that we had something very important in common. We both were adoptive parents.

His bill, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, is another example of his commitment to fairness, eliminating discrimination against the LGBTQ community in foster care and adoption.

He took time to listen to my story of my fight to keep my son, Josh, in a years-long court battle. He understood that all that should matter is that children have safe, loving homes. He understood that right is always right.

My heart tonight is with his family, and my commitment is to continue his work to restore and protect the Voting Rights Act, to address systemic racism, and to do what is kind, good, and just.

Rest in power, Mr. Lewis. We promise to work today, next week, next month, and next year, just as you did for our lifetimes.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce the majority leader. As he is coming, I want to express to him my thanks for allowing me to have the honor to pray for Representative John Lewis at his birthday party this past March. It is a privilege and a memory that I will cherish.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Some in my generation remember the song "Abraham, Martin and John." Then, of course, there was Bobby. All four were taken from us far too early in their lives.

God blessed each of us, this institution, and this country by giving to John Lewis health for eight decades. He used that health and strength, mind and body, to serve his God, his faith, his country, and his people.

I can say that John Lewis was my friend, but then again, we could all say that John Lewis was our friend and be right in that claim because John Lewis was a person who loved his fellow human beings.

So many of you have heard me refer to John Lewis as the most Christlike person I have ever met. He was human, and he represented the best of humanity and all the positive attributes that humanity can summon. That is why you hear from both sides of the aisle, from all ideologies, from people of different colors, different races, different genders, different nationalities, and perhaps even different languages—certainly, different languages—for he was not just an American—though proud he was of that appellation—he was a citizen of humanity.

JIM CLYBURN said a little earlier today that we hear about Gandhi, and we talk about Christian values, but no one we know has lived and breathed who was those attributes, not that he believed in them or talked about them, but he embodied the best attributes that are in us all.

We have a short time because time is limited, and so many want to speak because they were touched by John Lewis, because they were inspired by John Lewis, and because they were motivated and uplifted by John Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, how lucky we are to be able to say that John Lewis was our friend. I knew John Lewis. John Lewis made a personal difference in my life and the lives of millions of other people who may not even know the name of John Lewis.

□ 2015

Mr. Speaker, if I had another hour or another day or another week, I would not run out of good things to say about John Lewis. But his life and his contributions need no elevation from me or any others, for his life is a book of goodness, of courage, of commitment, of vision, and of great accomplishment.

We sing the song "God Bless America," and God blessed America and the world with John Robert Lewis.

Thank you, Lord.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, may we make a commitment to make sure this next generation does know the name "John Lewis."

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, John Lewis was a legend. He was also just a man. I knew the legend, but I was only just getting to know the man. And I guess I just hope we remember both, because somehow the legend feels unattainable.

On our best days, none of us are half the man that John Lewis was every day. And the real inspiration, I think, is the man, because it was that proof of his life that showed us our potential: if only we can summon his decency and his courage and his conviction.

The legend was the guy whom I could never muster the courage to call anything but Mr. Lewis. And the man was the guy who always said, "Just call me John."

The legend was the orator at this podium, or that one, or the one down there. And the man was the guy who would sit there and pull me aside and say, "How are you doing?"

But somehow, the legend and the man are one in the same, because it was a man who stood on that bridge, and it was a man who made all that "good trouble," and it was a man who showed us that the amount of love we can spread into this world isn't constrained by our mortality, but by our ambition.

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. And while I never quite mustered up the courage to say this while you were alive, thank you, John.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER).

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, John Robert Lewis was one of the most courageous and committed citizens that our country has ever known. With unparalleled courage, with deep faith, and with profound hope, he personified a belief in this country and a belief in his fellow citizens all the days of his life.

Through his life, he gave all of us a gift: a chance to see the world as it should be and a way to make it so.

At this pivotal time in our country's history, his faith in America and in Americans must guide us now. We have the opportunity and the responsibility as Members of Congress and as citizens to honor him by believing, as he did, in an America as good as its promise and by working to make it so.

We have many miles to go to build the beloved community, but he showed us the way. How lucky we are, and how we miss him so.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, as we conclude this Special Order, I am most reminded by my colleagues this evening of the immense impact of a life that was John Lewis.

In our current House, who can we think of that has more of an impact in the civil rights movement than John Lewis?

His legacy is not simply of humility and kindness in the pursuit of equality, but one in which we should all aspire

to replicate. We have talked many times tonight of his nonviolent approach, but do not hesitate for one second to think that John Lewis was not a strong man, a strong man with a lion's heart.

America is the greatest country in the world, but let's be transparent. It took us a few years to really act out that all men were created equal. John Lewis dedicated his life to making sure this country lived up to the ideals of our Founding Fathers in making this Nation a better place for everyone.

John was a man of faith. He grew up as a young preacher and later became an ordained Baptist minister, and I can relate to that. It was under this background that he began this fight for equality. Had the church joined him, I am convinced there would be less division today.

As a member of the Freedom Riders, John and his fellow Riders were subjected to mob beatings and arrested for his efforts. Despite this opposition, he remained steadfast in his conviction and continued onward with his courageous message as he pressured our Federal Government to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, John Lewis ascended to a seat in the U.S. Congress and continued to make "good trouble," as he would deem it. During this distinguished time as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, John left no stone unturned in his fight for the American people.

As you can see this evening, Congress has felt this impact resoundingly. It has been made clear: John Lewis' kindness and humility in the many faces of oppression and adversity have lifted up Congress and America for decades. To say he will be sorely missed is a vast understatement.

Let us continue to tell the story of John Lewis for generations to come. Remember his guidance, and let his presence live on in our hearts. In other words, let's keep on a walkin' and keep on a talkin'.

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

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the topic of tonight's Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we honor the life and legacy of the Honorable John Robert Lewis. I am thankful for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Republican Con-

ference Chair LIZ CHENEY and Republican Conference Vice Chair MARK WALKER, for their dual participation here on the House floor today, which is a recognition that, yes, John Lewis was a Democratic hero; he was a progressive hero; he was a civil rights hero; but above all else, John Robert Lewis was an American hero.

So we are here today on the House floor, not as Democrats or Republicans, not as progressives or conservatives, not as the left or the right, but as Americans because of what John Lewis meant to all of us: to our communities, to the country, to the Constitution, to the principle of liberty and justice for all, equal protection under the law, to the principle of the righteous cause of nonviolence as a pathway to the beloved community, as he would share with all of us.

John Robert Lewis was the connective tissue between the civil rights movement and the Black Lives Matter movement.

John Robert Lewis was the connective tissue between the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Presidency of Barack Obama.

And John Robert Lewis was the connective tissue between the tragedy on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the tragedy that occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

John Robert Lewis' life journey is the American journey, and he has guided the way as we have traveled and marched toward a more perfect Union; and through the sheer will of his morality, he has helped to bend the arc toward justice.

And so we are all thankful for his life and his legacy, honored by the privilege to have been able to call him "colleague."

We learned from John Lewis how to be a good American, a good patriot, a good neighbor, a good leader, a good human, a good activist, and how to get into "good trouble." And so we are thankful for this opportunity just to humbly communicate what John Lewis meant to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, few of us will ever leave the mark on history and every human we encounter the way our dear friend Congressman John Lewis did. His profound generosity and goodness was so beautifully balanced by his courageous, unyielding demands for justice.

I saw it as we sat-in on this House floor demanding gun safety reforms after the Pulse nightclub shooting.

I saw it as young and old met him, sensed his moral bearing, and he patiently made each one the world's most important person in that moment.

We saw it plain as day as he bravely crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge to confront America's racist sins, know-

ing that batons and beatings blocked the pathway to justice.

I saw it when he traveled to my district, and the outpouring of joy and reverence overflowed for this truly good man.

And I saw it when he took the time, 5 seconds of his time, in that room off the House floor, when he recorded a campaign video to help my then high school-age daughter win her student government campaign, which she did. That is a memory that she will treasure—and does treasure—throughout her life.

His lifetime of "good trouble" is a model for us all, especially now as we must carry on his work of racial justice. The more perfect Union John Lewis lived in and risked his life for is what our Founders expressed but did not necessarily exemplify and one that future leaders must aspire to. His courage and generosity are strengths we must all draw upon now.

Rest in power, my friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the passion of a dear friend, a colleague, a personal hero of mine, Congressman John Lewis.

Mr. Lewis often spoke of building a beloved community, one that required us to get into "good trouble" to achieve. His vision for America and her world was one of justice, equality, and compassion for one another.

During dark times, his strength and his optimism lit the way to a path forward that brought us closer to justice.

During doubtful times, his words and his wisdom inspired confidence that progress was still in reach.

And during this difficult time for our country, as we mourn his death, may the life and the legacy he left behind inspire us to keep building that beloved community.

John Lewis, you taught me that optimism is a moral duty, and now that you are gone, sir, I will no longer have you around to remind me to keep the faith. I will have to do that all by myself.

□ 2030

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn and also to celebrate a historic life, a man I was honored to know, privileged to serve with, and to call my friend.

Congressman John Lewis has been called home to God. I met Mr. Lewis right after I was elected to Congress, but over the years, I had the pleasure of getting to know him, a civil rights icon, a true American hero.

Too rarely are the most powerful also the most humble, the most caring, and the most kind. But Mr. Lewis had that