

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate the time tonight to honor one of Georgia's favorite sons.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, one of the greatest honors of my life has been to serve alongside John Lewis in this House of Representatives. John was my friend, and I know that thousands of people say the same thing, and guess what? They are all right.

John was my leader. I sat down in the well of this House with him in the morning, and we didn't get up again until the next morning because we were fighting, with him in the lead, to end gun violence. I got arrested with John Lewis, he probably for the 60-something time and me for the first, because we were fighting for immigration reform.

My husband and I had the honor of walking behind John to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge three different times at a place where the State troopers in Alabama nearly took his life.

Over the years in our Democratic Caucus meetings, there was a tone that would get gloomy sometimes, and those were John Lewis moments. John would stand up and, in no uncertain terms, he would remind us of our mission. What people really wanted to hear from us, he told us, was hope, and no one could deliver hope like John Lewis.

I give you his words, words we needed to hear: Do not get lost in despair. Be hopeful. Be optimistic. Our struggle is not a struggle of a day, of a week, of a month, or of a year. It is the struggle of a lifetime.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I count among my life's greatest blessings the distinction of being able to call John Lewis my colleague and my friend.

Martin Luther King said the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. John Robert Lewis spent his entire life working to accelerate and complete that bend fully committed to justice, to nonviolence and, in his own words, to good trouble.

John Lewis' incredible capacity for love, his steadfast belief in nonviolence, and his limitless humility inspired all of us, Democrat and Republican, to be better. His singular character established him as the conscience of the Congress.

I have too many personal stories to share in a short 1-minute speech,

enough stories, in fact, to more than fill the entire hour. I will hold each of these treasured memories in my heart for the rest of my life.

I join with my colleagues to honor his legacy and together hope we will continue his work bending that arc toward justice.

Rest in peace, John, knowing your memory will be a blessing to your Nation and to all whose lives you touched.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the committee on which John Lewis did so much of his important work for the great State of Georgia.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, John Lewis was many things. He was a father. He was a Congressman. As you know, he was a civil rights pioneer who marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a husband. He was a son of the South, one who walked in the wind to bring equality to America and is now walking in the heavens with his Creator. He was a colleague.

John was all these extraordinary things, and he was also my friend. We are a better Nation and a better people because of him. This institution, of all of our country, will miss him dearly.

I always struggle to explain back home just what an extraordinary person he was. To know John was a blessing. To get to work with him on so many important issues on the Ways and Means Committee, including the first reform to the IRS in over two decades, making important improvements to Medicare for our seniors and those who need our help the most, that was an honor of a lifetime.

I served with him on the Ways and Means Committee for many years. He was a warm, needed, inspirational presence in that storied committee room. When I look down the dais, I will be sad to miss my friend. But I will always be proud to have had the privilege of working with such a remarkable spirit.

Each day he walked in these halls, we all witnessed firsthand his remarkable integrity, his intelligence toward the complex policy issues we debate, and his willingness to work across the aisle if it means Americans will have greater dignity, opportunity, and equal rights.

God loved this remarkable servant, and I know John is walking hand-in-hand with God and his beloved Lillian today.

I miss you, John. Cathy and I will continue to pray for you and all those who call you family. May you rest in peace and rise in glory. God bless you.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our friend and colleague, Congressman John Lewis.

With every march, every sit-in, every time we reject unjust rules and institutions designed to oppress any group, we honor the legacy of John Robert Lewis.

A record number of Americans have stood up, spoken up, and laced up their marching shoes in recent weeks. Millions of them are too young to know about the man in whose footsteps they are following as they make what he so rightly called good trouble.

□ 2100

May we all model his grace, courage, kindness, and commitment to nonviolence as a way of life and continue the good trouble he started even when—especially when—it is unpopular.

I feel so much gratitude to have learned from this giant of history, this singular American genius, and to have served, however briefly, alongside him. His loss is devastating. His memory everlasting.

Rest in power, my beloved brother.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

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

No one loved Nashville, Tennessee, more than our friend and colleague John Robert Lewis.

As a young man, he arrived in Nashville on a bus with a ticket purchased by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King wanted young John to attend American Baptist College.

For anyone wondering how to honor John Lewis and his legacy, think of his alma mater, American Baptist, and remember also the historically Black college and university that he later attended, Fisk University. If you want more John Lewises in the world, think of his beloved training grounds, American Baptist and Fisk.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Representative John Lewis, whose passing is a tremendous loss for Congress and for the entire country.

I will always remember walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with him on the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. I took my son with me on that trip, and when John passed last weekend, my son said this: "He is the most memorable person I have ever met. I will never forget what it feels like to be in the same room as him."

We will never forget what it felt like to serve in the same Chamber as him.

And as the Nation reckons with centuries of systemic racism, we owe a great debt to John Lewis and the "good trouble" he made in the civil rights movement, past and present. If we only had half his courage.

We as a Congress and we as a country would be better if we all exemplify his kindness, his passion, and his stoic ability to remain calm in any kind of storm. I can hear his voice urging us: Never give up, never give in, and always keep the faith.

Rest in peace, rest in power, John Lewis.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, like so many here tonight, I was inspired by John Lewis and his lifelong fight for our country to live up to its ideals to be more tolerant, more just, and more equal.

He was fearless. He sacrificed his body, bloodied by billy clubs and beatings from police, in hopes that future generations of people of color would not have to.

He was my hero. I called him “Mr. Lewis” when I first arrived to Congress, and I will never forget, he would say, “Call me John.” He was so humble and supportive.

Hearing John Lewis tell firsthand stories of the fight for civil rights was a privilege. Walking the Edmund Pettus Bridge with him was something I will never forget.

We will honor his life by continuing to, and as he said, cause “good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”

As he wrote: “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.”

We will try.

Thank you, John.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. HECK).

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

Early in my service, I got out of the car in the parking garage to walk into Cannon, and Mr. Lewis walked up behind me. I turned and he said: “Good morning, my brother.” I opened the door to try to point for him to enter first, and he said: “You first, my brother.”

I often heard him refer to my colleagues as “my brother” or “my sister,” and for a while I actually was fooled into thinking that was because he hadn’t yet learned our names. But that wasn’t it. He knew. It was more a sign of respect and affection and mutuality.

No one has ever walked in this Chamber on this floor, before, now, or in the future, who will ever command the love and reverence of him, because he was a great man.

Godspeed to you in your journey, John Robert Lewis, my brother.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is my honor to rise today to recognize, honor, and celebrate the life, legacy, and impact of Congressman John Lewis.

Of those who have left their mark on history, the unique and indelible imprint of John Lewis stands in a category all its own. His strength, cour-

age, commitment, compassion, kindness, and fierce determination to challenge injustice made the world a better place for all of us and truly bent the arc of history ever closer to justice.

John showed us that being bold and standing up for those whose voices aren’t heard are inextricably linked with the need for compassion and hope.

Though I don’t think any of us were ready to let him go—I know I certainly wasn’t—I simply cannot imagine the world had he not been in it. And it is one of the greatest honors of my life to be able to have served with him and to call him a colleague and to join him on the civil rights pilgrimage last year, as I know many voices have said before.

And it was on this journey that I had the opportunity to share with him a blessing that had been bestowed upon me that I believe embodies the life and the lessons and the legacy of John Lewis that I will share today in his Honor.

“May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.”

“May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.”

“May God bless you with a gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.”

“May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world so that you are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.”

Thank you, Mr. Lewis, for living those lessons and those words. Godspeed.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a cardinal on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In October 1995, the Black clergy in my community asked if I could get Congressman John Lewis of Georgia to come to New Haven for our local elections. I was honored to welcome John to my hometown. Here is what I said about him that evening.

“John Lewis is a true hero of the cause of progress. It is often said that John Lewis is ‘one of the most courageous persons the civil rights movement ever produced.’ The most astonishing thing about that sweeping statement is that it probably doesn’t go far enough to describe the heroics of the man you see before you. John Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing personal dignity, and building what he likes to call ‘The Beloved Community.’ His display of ethics and morality has won him rare admiration from both his House

colleagues and from leaders around the world over.”

He thanked me for the introduction, and he said to the congregation, “I love my sister ROSA DELAURO.”

And I loved that our offices, when I first came to the Congress, were next to each other.

I served with Congressman John Lewis for 30 years, and I consider myself blessed. My grandchildren, Teo, Rigby, Sadi, and Jasper, met John Lewis. He signed for them his book, “March.”

John Lewis’ “March” tells the story of a poor sharecropper’s son who transformed America and so much more. There are few in the world who change it. John Lewis changed it.

The Black clergy in my community, my grandchildren, my family, you can be sure we will carry on your work, John Lewis. Count on it.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

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

When I was younger, we seemed to have a lot of American heroes around, from the Greatest Generation that won World War II to the civil rights leaders of the 1950s, to the men who walked on the Moon. To call one of them a colleague was one of the greatest honors of my life, and it hit me every day I saw John Lewis on the House floor.

“Good morning, sir,” was may usual greeting. Not because of my Marine background or his age—most people in Congress are older than me—but simply because there is nobody in Congress who had more respect. Nobody.

But he was much more than just a towering figure. He was a loving, caring, indefatigably optimistic friend and mentor, especially to young people like me.

John and I took bets on the 2017 Super Bowl, with the winner committing to visiting the loser’s district. After the Patriots had the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history, we started talking dates for his trip to Massachusetts. But with a few conflicts and his getting older, I proposed an alternative: a visit to some of the civil rights sites in his hometown.

Through all the turmoil of the last few years, there are only two times I have cried in Congress: visiting the prison in Hanoi with John McCain and visiting Atlanta with John Lewis.

If you ever doubt what a hero John and his fellow American patriots were, spend some time in Atlanta or Birmingham or Selma, where he came within an inch of his life fighting to uphold a nation’s ideals even when the nation said they don’t apply to you or your family.

I found myself wondering if I would have had the courage to join in those protests to be a freedom fighter, to change a nation. That is what John Lewis did. He changed America, and in so doing, he changed the world.

And he never lost faith in either as he did it.

During the impeachment trial, I asked him if he had ever seen it this bad. And while he told me never, not even during the civil rights movement, because he said there was more hope, more movement, he nonetheless maintained his characteristic optimism and looked at me confidently like a preacher to his Sunday school student and said: But, don't worry. We will get through it. Keep the faith, brother. Keep the faith.

We miss you, John.

□ 2115

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I would inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, like many others in this Chamber, the last time I heard Mr. Lewis' voice was on a Caucus call recently. Congressman Lewis implored us: Be bold. Be brave. Keep the faith. Keep your eyes on the prize. Keep working. There is much work to be done. Don't get weary. Continue the work.

John Lewis was a hero to all of us for causing "good trouble" and for standing on the right side of history, for standing for our common humanity.

His humility, strength, and belief in the greatness of this country never faltered. What a blessing it has been to me to serve with him.

I had the privilege of being with him on a visit in Florida to the detention camp where immigrant children were kept separated from their parents, and through an interpreter, he spoke to the children.

He had two messages. So whether he was speaking to us in Congress or to a President or to children, his message was the same, and the same was: Believe in the promise of America. Keep the faith. Be bold. Don't be disturbed.

His other message, his second message, was one of welcome, and the beaming children loved that. He said: Welcome to America. We welcome you.

His was a memory of kindness and humility and optimism for a better place, an America that was promised in our founding documents.

On many occasions, we have fallen short, short of the American promise of equality and justice for all. Mr. Lewis' scars revealed that.

His memory will be a beacon for justice and equality and for the unfinished business of the people to be a country of mercy, of decency, and of love.

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Lucky us to have passed this way with you.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I didn't have the 52-year relationship with Mr. Lewis that SANFORD BISHOP talked about earlier. I wasn't even born when that relationship started. This very powerful and imposing face beside me, I have very little association with.

If Mike Collins goes back and looks in the files, I believe he will find that they turned down a young man named ROB WOODALL for a job back in 1994. It wasn't that I didn't try to get a good mentorship from John Lewis, I just didn't meet the John Lewis bar at that time.

But my experience with him has been Biblically based, as so many have. But mine has been: Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

If I could arrange it, I would walk down the steps behind John as he was going down the Capitol steps after a vote, because children from all over the country would come running up, "Mr. Lewis, Mr. Lewis," just wanting to say hello.

Whether it was the steps of the Capitol, the busiest airport in the world at Hartsfield International, or anywhere in between, I never once saw John in too much of a hurry with too much on his mind to take the time to make sure the next generation understood what happened in the last generation and the difference they could make for yet another generation.

The story has already been told that staff members would say the only thing they want to do on Capitol Hill is meet Mr. Lewis before they leave.

Time and time again, that is the story of any Georgia Member because, growing up, Mr. Lewis was Mr. Lewis. He always says, "Call me John," but he is always Mr. Lewis and always will be.

So much of the story that we have heard told about John tonight, Madam Speaker, has been about John the fighter. It is so meaningful to me that the other half of the stories we have heard tonight are about John the embracer.

We have plenty of fighters in this institution, and we have our fair share of embracers in this institution. We don't have as many folks who are every bit as good at embracing as they are at fighting.

We will miss John's leadership in that respect in the great State of Georgia, Madam Speaker, and we will miss him here in this institution.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for coming out tonight, I know, to honor their friend and their colleague, but certainly to honor our great son from Georgia.

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

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROBERT LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and ex-

tend their remarks on the topic of tonight's Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, what a privilege it has been not only to serve with John Lewis, but to be witness tonight to the remembrances of our icon, the peacemaker, the justice seeker, Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Personally, I never got used to working with John Lewis, and I struggled to call him "John."

I met him right after I got sworn in, in a special election, near the chair in which he often sat. I was completely tongue-tied.

Whether it was a casual hello, a walk back and forth from the Capitol for votes, or planning a sit-in, every single interaction with John was profound.

John knew oppression and he knew racial violence. He had been beaten, clubbed, spat on, and denigrated. John had experienced the worst forms of bigotry. He had seen the worst in people, and yet it steeled his determination and it deepened his faith.

John Lewis is the kindest man I have ever known. Love, compassion, integrity were the hallmarks of everything he did, big or small.

Like so many of you, I was fortunate enough to be able to go to Selma on several occasions with John and walk the Civil Rights Trail.

To hear John Lewis speak on the Edmund Pettus Bridge is transformative. That bridge is an unusual structure. It has a steep rise as it comes up, it flattens in the middle, and then there is a steep descent.

I could imagine John Lewis, as I saw him speak from that bridge, being a young man leading, with Hosea Williams, a column of 600 marchers and getting to the middle of that bridge and for the first time being able to see what awaited them, the sea of State troopers, of angry crowds. I am sure he could feel the violence in the air like electricity.

But John did not turn back. He did not falter in the face of hatred and of violence. He was fortified by the moral clarity of why he was marching: to ensure that every American had the right to vote.

And we know what happened. We know they were beaten, trampled, and gassed. But they reconvened and marched to Montgomery and made the Civil Rights Act the law of the land.

Today we find ourselves again in this country in the middle of the bridge, and we can see the danger ahead. We can see those who seek to divide this country, suppress the vote, and cut off opportunity. While John Lewis cannot physically lead us across that bridge, he has taught us what to do.

Many of us have referenced what would be the last words for us to hear from John Lewis, and he spoke, as always, inspirationally about the true