

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
LEWIS

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, All week America has been in mourning—as we will be for so many weeks to come—as we grieve the passing of one of the greatest heroes of American history: Congressman John Lewis, the Conscience of the Congress.

Thank you, Chairman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for arranging this tribute to John's beautiful life.

John Lewis was a titan of the civil rights movement. His goodness, faith and bravery transformed our nation—from the determination with which he met discrimination at lunch counters and on Freedom Rides, to the courage he showed as a young man facing down violence on Edmund Pettus Bridge, to the moral leadership he brought to the Congress for more than 30 years.

In the halls of the Capitol, he was fearless in his pursuit of a more perfect union, whether through his Voter Empowerment Act to defend the ballot, his leadership on the Equality Act to end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans, his work as a Senior Member of Ways & Means to ensure that we invest in our values or his commitment to health justice as he fought for the Affordable Care Act.

As John declared 57 years ago during the March on Washington, standing in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial: "Our minds, souls, and hearts cannot rest until freedom and justice exist for all the people"—words that ring true today.

How fitting it is that even in the last weeks of his battle with cancer, John summoned the strength to visit the peaceful protests in Washington, D.C.

At Black Lives Matter Plaza, he stood with the newest generation who poured into the streets to take up the unfinished work of racial justice; helping complete the march that he began more than a half a century ago in Selma.

His visit with the Mayor of Washington, D.C., painted an iconic picture of justice: an image that will endure, and will inspire our nation for years to come.

John Lewis believed that every person had a spark of divinity making them worthy of respect. To honor John Lewis's life, we must maintain his fight, persisting and resisting until the rights and dignity of all are respected.

What a perfect tribute it would be for the Senate to pass voting rights legislation to safeguard the right to the ballot that John risked his life and dedicated his strength to defending.

Many of us remember how John, a man of goodness and faith, was so moved by the visit

of Pope Francis to Washington and by his Joint Address to Congress, to which he felt a great link.

John later said, "Though I was reluctant to openly shed tears, I cried within to hear his words. I was deeply moved to realize I had a connection in some way with some of those he mentioned [including] Thomas Merton, a monk whose words I studied during non-violence training in the Civil Rights Movement."

"It was amazing that the Pope mentioned the Selma-to-Montgomery March because during the first attempt to March to Montgomery, now known as Bloody Sunday, I carried one of Thomas Merton's books in my backpack."

Thomas Merton, a force for non-violence and peace, like John, once wrote, "We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God."

But John Lewis was a heavenly man who was at peace—with himself, with his fellow man and with God. When I spoke with him the day before he passed, he told me that he was ready to go home.

God truly blessed America with the life and leadership of John Lewis.

Here in the Congress, John was revered and beloved on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol. We knew that he always worked on the side of the angels—and now, we are comforted to know that he is with them.

May John's goodness be an inspiration that moves us not to hate, but to hope; may his strength inspire us not to fear, but to fight for what is right—and to, in the face of injustice, make "good trouble, necessary trouble."

And may it be a comfort to John's son, John Miles, his entire family, Michael Collins and his entire staff that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

CONGRATULATING HIS EXCELLENCE
FAYÇAL GOUIA ON THE
CONCLUSION OF HIS TENURE AS
TUNISIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE
UNITED STATES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the co-chair of the Tunisia Caucus, a caucus I have had the pleasure of co-chairing with my friend, Congressman DAVID SCHWEIKERT of Arizona.

As co-chairs of the Tunisia Caucus, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude and highest praise to His Excellency Fayçal Gouia, Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States, as he concludes his impressive and valuable ambassadorship.

The Ambassador's career has been as impressive as it has been dedicated to the people of Tunisia—a more dedicated son to his mother country would be difficult to find.

Ambassador Gouia has multiple degrees and has studied at the National Defense University in the United States as well as the National Defense Institute in Tunis. With his impressive educational credentials, Ambassador Gouia has represented his country the world over including Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, and of course, the United States.

Fortunately for the next generation of Tunisian diplomats, the Ambassador has shared his deep and broad experience with students at the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunis and at the High Institute of Human Sciences, University of Tunis. This is an invaluable opportunity for these students and does a great service for Tunisia's standing around the world—a standing as revered as it is today in large part because of Ambassador Gouia's diligent and meaningful work on behalf of the people of Tunisia and their government.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, the co-chairs have enjoyed immensely their meetings and dinners with the Ambassador. His insights are always enlightening as we all work to make stronger the solid and long-lasting bond between the United States and Tunisia. It is a friendship borne long ago that has only grown stronger over the years as both countries dedicate themselves to the cause of liberty, justice, and democracy.

Madam Speaker, we again thank the Ambassador for his counsel, integrity, and friendship and wish him, his wife, and his two daughters, nothing but peace and prosperity as they embark on their latest journey.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
LISA A. BAKER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lisa A. Baker, Chief Executive Officer of Yolo County Housing on her retirement from the agency after 14 successful years. While Ms. Baker was with Yolo Housing, the agency was twice named HUD's PHA of the Year, added 264 affordable partnership units, 104 affordable managed units, 400 voucher units, received 23 awards from HUD, and nearly doubled their annual revenue. It has been my pleasure to work with Ms Baker throughout her tenure at Yolo Housing, and I look forward to seeing her next chapter in life.

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