

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN CONYERS, TIRELESS FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY, CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE COMMITTEES ON OVERSIGHT AND ON THE JUDICIARY, FOUNDING MEMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM MICHIGAN FOR 53 YEARS, MENTOR, BELOVED COLLEAGUE, AND DEAR FRIEND

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Chairman John Conyers, Jr., the tireless fighter for justice and equality, Chairman of House Committees on Oversight and on the Judiciary, Founding Member of Congressional Black Caucus, Member of Congress From Michigan For 53 years, my mentor, a beloved colleague, and dear friend who died on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at his home in Detroit, Michigan at the age of 90.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers, Jr. was a statesman and strong supporter of equality, economic and social justice, civil rights, and human dignity for all.

John Conyers, Jr. was born May 16, 1929 in Highland Park, Michigan to Lucille Janice and John Conyers, Sr., a union organizer in the automotive industry and an international representative with the United Auto Workers.

After graduation from Northwestern High School, John Conyers dutifully served his country in the Michigan National Guard from 1948 to 1950, the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954, and the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957, serving during the Korean War and as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he was awarded combat and merit citations.

Following his military service, John Conyers earned his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from Wayne State University and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar.

Chairman Conyers began his legislative career on the staff of the late Congressman John Dingell and during this time he also served as counsel to several Detroit-area labor unions and was referee for Michigan's workmen's compensation department.

In 1964, John Conyers was first elected to represent the First Congressional District of Michigan and was reelected to the succeeding 90th Congress and the following 15 Congresses until he retired on December 5, 2017.

On the retirement of Congressman John Dingell at the end of the 113th Congress in December 2015, John Conyers became the longest-serving member of the United States Congress, serving as Dean of the House from January 3, 2015 until December 2017.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers was also the third longest-serving member of the House in history and the sixth longest-serving member of Congress in history; the second-longest serving member of either the House or Senate in Michigan history, trailing only his former boss, Congressman Dingell; and was the last member of the large Democratic freshman class of 1964 to serve in the House of Representatives.

In the more than half century he served in Congress, John Conyers was at the forefront

of most of the seminal moments in American political history, such as working to enact into law this partial list of landmark legislation:

Voting Rights of 1965  
Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare)  
Fair Housing Act of 1968  
Clean Air Act  
Clean Water Act  
Help America Vote Act  
Affordable Care Act  
Dodd-Frank Act  
American Act With Disabilities Act  
Assault Weapons Ban  
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1982  
Drug Kingpins Act  
Fair Chance Act  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
Social Security Amendments of 1965 (including Medicaid and Medicare)  
Voting Rights Act of 1965  
Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965  
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act  
Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965  
Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments  
Freedom of Information Act  
Child Nutrition Act  
National Historic Preservation Act  
National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act  
Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act  
Cuban Adjustment Act  
Public Broadcasting Act of 1967  
Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967  
Bilingual Education Act  
Civil Rights Act of 1968  
Consumer Credit Protection Act  
National Trails System Act  
Gun Control Act of 1968  
National Environmental Policy Act  
Organized Crime Control Act, including the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO")  
Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1970  
National Cancer Act  
Federal Election Campaign Act  
Equal Employment Opportunity Act  
War Powers Resolution  
Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act  
District of Columbia Home Rule Act  
Endangered Species Act  
Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974  
Legal Services Corporation Act  
Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974  
Energy Reorganization Act of 1974  
National Mass Transportation Assistance Act  
Safe Drinking Water Act  
Privacy Act of 1974  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
Copyright Act of 1976  
Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
Water Resources Development Act of 1976  
National Forest Management Act  
The proposal to expand Medicare to all, a political idea gaining increasing popularity daily, was first introduced by John Conyers in 2003 as the United States National Health Insurance Act.

John Conyers served on the Judiciary Committee that investigated Watergate and voted articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon in August 1974.

John Conyers marched in the historic March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and later employed civil rights legend Rosa Parks in his congressional office until her retirement in 1988.

John Conyers was loved by his constituents, regularly winning reelection with 80 percent of the vote or more.

John Conyers is one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, which has worked diligently to strengthen African-American lawmakers' ability to address the legislative concerns of African American and minority citizens and has now increased to 55 members in the House and Senate, including myself.

While in Congress, John Conyers chaired the prestigious House Judiciary Committee from 1989 to 1995 and Oversight from 2007 to 2011, the first African American to hold these coveted positions.

Throughout his career, John Conyers used his influence to push civil rights; in 1968, only days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chairman Conyers began a long and ultimately successful effort to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, which was enacted in 1983.

John Conyers also cosponsored and worked tirelessly to pass the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which help topple South Africa's system of apartheid and free Nelson Mandela from prison.

In the 101st Congress, John Conyers introduced legislation to study the issue of reparations for slavery and was the original sponsor of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

I am proud to have assumed principal sponsorship of this piece of landmark legislative proposal and continuing the fight for justice.

John Conyers was dedicated to justice for all, he supported legislation to generate the Justice Department's national study on police brutality.

John Conyers was opposed to the imposition of the death penalty and began a series of hearings on police brutality.

As Judiciary Committee Chairman, John Conyers also worked to create and enlarge federal death benefits for police officers and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers dedicated his life to serving his constituents and the citizens of the United States; his persistence for justice and his fight for equal rights is a testament to his character.

Chairman John Conyers will live forever in the hearts of the people of Detroit, his state of Michigan, and the United States.

John Conyers was a legislative lion whose presence will forever be missed, and we all mourn his loss and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Monica, his children, and family and friends who loved him so dearly, my deepest sympathies go out to and I hope you find consolation in the certain knowledge that John is now resting peacefully.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MS.  
BRENDA JONES

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brenda Jones, who served as my communications director for over 15 years.

Ms. Jones came with a strong recommendation from my special assistant and had a resume and perspective that was unique to the United States House of Representatives. From the very first moment we met, I realized how fortunate I was to find Brenda.

Brenda Jones is a proud, native Washingtonian with a passion for social justice, history, and the arts. She studied the Civil Rights Movement, understood the challenges we faced, and dedicated her life to the work that remains. This vantage point provided a unique perspective and comprehension of the complicated matters facing my congressional district in Metro Atlanta and my work here in the United States Congress.

Before coming to Capitol Hill, Ms. Jones worked in media as a researcher for ABC News' Washington, D.C. Bureau, a writer and assistant editor at WTOP-AM News Radio, and a radio specialist of international activities for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She later transitioned to public relations where she honed her skills in developing media strategies, coordinating national book tours for civil and women rights luminaries, and launching public education campaigns.

One of the things that I most appreciate about Brenda is her constant commitment to education—whether in life or academia. I believe that her centenarian father, Mr. Robert L. Davis and her late mother, Mrs. Myrtle Mac (Bowers) Davis, planted these seeds of excellence, and in Brenda they bloomed. As a graduate of National Cathedral School, Indiana University Bloomington, and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Brenda returned to Harvard University to earn another master's degree in Public Administration, where she received the Gertrude Manley Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding leadership skills.

Ms. Jones invested her astute expertise and intellectualism in the United States House of Representatives. She brought life to her vision and took the role of communications director to new heights as she funneled depth and dignity into her work. Those who know me, understand that I have a clear style—make it simple, make it plain. When Brenda joined my office, she made my words sing—in press releases, interviews, on the House Floor, in book forwards, in op-eds, and in speeches across the country and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Brenda quickly became the conscience of my office. For 15 years, she humbly and selflessly worked day in and day out to channel every ounce of her knowledge and experience into creating new methods of communicating and mastering uncharted territory. Ms. Jones created a national and international strategy to tell the story of my work in the Civil Rights Movement, as a Member of Congress, as a representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, and as a legislator, who found a way to get in the way—and get things done.

Since she consistently refuses to step into the limelight, I was particularly proud when the public, her peers, and colleagues began to pay tribute to this dynamic woman. In 2010, Brenda earned the prestigious Theodore C. Sorenson Speechwriting Award. In 2012, we worked together on a book, *Across that Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*, and we won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work/Biography for her work in translating the philosophy and doctrines that inspired the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement into advice for a new generation. A few years later, the National Journal honored Ms. Jones as one of the 20 Most Powerful Women on Capitol Hill in 2015, and the Stennis Center for Public Leadership selected her as a senior fellow in the 114th Congress.

Somehow Brenda always found time to mentor aspiring professionals and build networks of kindred souls. In 2013, she founded the Capitol Hill Writers Workshop to develop the skills and art of professionals in a communal space. Brenda also served her communities—whether as a commissioner on the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., in advisory capacities for the Sustained Dialogue, Inc. and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, or on the Committee of Visitors for Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She also shared her expertise with the Democratic National Committee for national conventions and our former colleague's, Rep. John Barrow, inaugural campaign. For years, this steady stream of colleagues, mentees, and people with whom she connected across the country and around the world became a permanent part of Brenda's extended circle.

In this day and time when Congress can feel more transactional than communal, Brenda was the nucleus of the Team Lewis family. Shortly before joining my office, Brenda lost her beloved husband Dr. Martin Wilson Jones, M.D., and I often felt that she took care of us with the selfless passion and dedication that he showed her. If you were feeling down and out, we could always trust that Brenda has natural teas, organic tips, and an astrological analysis to soothe your mind, body, and soul. She was often a comfort and confidante during our darkest days and hours.

For 15 years, Ms. Jones fiercely and unequivocally advocated for me, my constituents, and my work in Congress. It was an honor to know that I had this trusted senior advisor and seasoned communications professional in my corner. Although I will miss having Ms. Brenda Jones by my side, I wish her happiness as she transitions to exciting new opportunities and inevitable success.

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW  
BRADFORD

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a unique and special man, Corporal (Ret.) Matthew Bradford. Matthew is stepping down as Veterans Outreach Coordinator in my District office.

Matthew enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when he graduated from high

school and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Echo Company, 2nd Platoon. He was deployed to Iraq in 2006, and on January 18, 2007 he was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device. His severe injuries left him a blind double amputee. Matthew persevered and learned to overcome and adapt from his injuries. Matthew became the first blind amputee in history to re-enlist in the Marine Corps in 2010. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his service, his sacrifice, and his patriotism.

Matthew Bradford is a very determined individual. After his service with the Marine Corps ended, he married his "Warrior Princess" Amanda. Together they have three children. Through hard work and determination, Matthew graduated from the University of Kentucky. Matthew has found his purpose in motivating and encouraging others to overcome difficult obstacles. He spends a great deal of time speaking to groups and individuals and participating in challenging athletic events such as marathons, skydiving, surfing, hunting, and climbing 7000 feet up Mt. Rainier.

Matthew came to work in the Sixth Congressional District office in the spring of 2017, serving first as a college intern, then as a National Security Fellow, and lastly as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator. In his work in the district office, Matthew has been a strong advocate for veterans. He worked with our Veterans Coalition and it has grown tremendously under his leadership. Matthew has worked on many outreach initiatives, including a Facebook page, and has worked diligently to improve the lives of America's veterans. His work with veterans has made quite a difference. His passion, his humor, and his determination will be greatly missed.

Matthew has earned many honors, including the Purple Heart Medal, the George Van Cleve Military Leadership Award, the Gary Sinise Hope for the Warriors Award, and induction into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame. He was also invited by President Trump to attend the 2018 State of the Union Address. In his position in the Sixth District office, he has earned the respect of all his co-workers and of all the constituents with whom he interacted. He leaves a lasting legacy as a servant leader.

I am honored to call Matthew a loyal and trusted friend. I wish him all the best as he moves on to other interests. I thank Corporal Bradford for his friendship, his tireless work on behalf of the people of the Sixth District, and his outstanding service to our country.

CHAD WACHS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chad Wachs for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Chad Wachs launched AU Wireless in 2015 with a handful of neighbors to see if he could create a low-cost community broadband system. Their proof-of-concept has since grown into a full-fledged co-op with more than 300 members using the service all over town. AU Wireless works with community partners like