

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2020.

Certain ongoing activities, such as Iran's continuing arms transfers to Hizballah—which include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems—serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 29, 2020.

REFLECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I have asked the members of the Ways and Means family to assemble on the floor tonight so that we might offer appropriate praise to the life of one of the iconic figures of not just the civil rights movement, but of the Ways and Means Committee.

I sat next to John Lewis for 25 years on the Ways and Means Committee, and I must tell you, Madam Speaker, he was the bravest and most gentle person I ever met.

He nearly lost his life in pursuit of justice and confronted some of the darkest facets of our society at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as a very young man, but he never lost faith in what America could become.

During those many conversations—and he offered a tutorial to me about

the life and the legend that he had offered to America—his unyielding optimism and hope lifted the spirits of his fellow Members of Congress and the American people in our Nation's most trying moments.

With quiet strength, grace, and love, he shouldered unthinkable burdens and changed this world for the better. Through it all, he was unfailingly humble, selfless, and kind.

I must say—and I was commenting a moment ago to some colleagues on the committee—if he was in the room, Madam Speaker, you would have to get him to come to the microphone. That was that reluctance that he had. And we all had known about the great achievements that he had offered to this Nation, but it was never, “Let me get to the microphone.” It was always a much more humble arrangement.

He came to my constituency in 2015. He was invited by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who staffed a small Catholic college in Chicopee, Massachusetts. They invited him to commemorate the fact that on Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge they were the only ones, with members of the Edmundite priesthood, who would care for them when others closed their doors.

When John greeted Sister Maxyne Schneider upon introduction for the commencement address, the two of them broke out in tears, and 5,000 people in the Springfield Civic Center broke out in tears with them. He remembered that moment, and they remembered him—another great story in the legacy of John Lewis.

It is rare that a person has an opportunity in this institution to work alongside a real hero. We had that here, and we sometimes forget that in the din of incendiary debate. But for three decades, I, along with other members of the Ways and Means Committee, had that honor. To be in his presence, his wisdom, and his joyful spirit day in and day out was a blessing beyond words.

John served in this Congress until his last day, in part because his work was not done. Despite all the advancements he achieved, glaring inequities remain in our Nation that demand reform. But lucky for us, John Lewis inspired generations of young people to follow in his steps, to stand up to injustice, and to fight for what is right.

Now he can clearly rest, and our prayers are with him as we carry on his vital and unfinished business. It is up to all of us to pick up where John left off and to be part of his legacy in action.

For those of us who will join his funeral service tomorrow in Atlanta, what a great journey this has been to have served with him in this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing the Ways and Means family, as he termed it, together for this important evening.

These past few days, our country has taken time to reflect on the life and

the legacy of John Robert Lewis, from the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Auburn Avenue. Through streets of the South to the rotunda of the United States Capitol, our Nation has come together to celebrate the life of a man who rose to the occasion to fight for the rights of all human beings.

A Congressman for the great State of Georgia and an esteemed member of the Ways and Means Committee, John Lewis was a blessing to our institution. It was an honor of a lifetime to sit next to such giants as he, Congressman Sam Johnson, and others who made their way through the Ways and Means Committee in the Longworth House Office Building.

I was lucky to not just sit near John in the committee room, but I realized early this session, as I went to look at my old office in the Cannon House Office Building, that John Lewis was serving there, too. That day I had a big smile on my face as I greeted John, and we reminisced a bit about sharing our offices.

Madam Speaker, you couldn't help but smile if you ever crossed paths with him. He was one of the better angels of our nature. He was one of our thousand points of light.

The man who walked in the wind to bring equality to America now is walking in the heavens with his creator. We are a better nation and a better people because of him, and this institution and all of our country will miss him dearly.

To know John, as every member of this committee will tell you, is a blessing. His life, his career, and his legislative achievements will be studied by future students for generations.

It was an honor to have worked on such important issues with him, including the first reforms of the IRS in over two decades and in making improvements to Medicare for our Nation's seniors.

It is common knowledge in D.C., and certainly in the Ways and Means Committee, that our room happens to be one of the coldest rooms in the Capitol. But that was not the case when John walked in. His presence alone brought that room warmth, calmness, and reassurance that, if we work together, we all can make a difference.

When I look down the dais in the weeks ahead, I will be sad to miss our friend, but I will always be proud to have had the privilege of working with such a remarkable man. 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.

I will tell you, Madam Speaker, if you were poor, if you were born on the wrong side of the tracks, or if you felt powerless, John Lewis was your man. John Lewis would fight for you.

God loved this remarkable servant, and I know John is walking hand in

hand with God and his beloved Lillian today.

Tomorrow, I will be honored to join Chairman NEAL to attend his funeral in Atlanta with many of our House colleagues.

John, it will be a celebration of your life, a chance for us to honor you and reflect on all the joy, passion, and love you brought to this Congress, to our lives, and to this country.

May you rest in peace, my friend, and may God continue to shower you with faith, hope, and love each day.

I thank Chairman NEAL for having me as part of this dedication today.

□ 2000

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), another esteemed member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, in my time in Congress rarely have I participated in Special Orders, but tonight, this is more than a Special Order.

John Lewis was one of the greatest men to have ever served in the Congress of the United States of America. He devoted his entire life to helping others and to making our country a better place. It was an incredible honor to serve with him in Congress and on the Committee on Ways and Means.

My wife, Jan, and I walked with him over the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. That was 50 years after John was almost killed on that bridge after peacefully protesting discrimination that disenfranchised Americans in our country.

He visited my district, and hundreds of my constituents came out to see him. One man came in a wheelchair, pushed by his daughter. And his daughter said: My father was a Freedom Rider and marched with John Lewis. And he checked himself out of the hospital tonight so he could be here to see John Lewis. After they said their hellos, he got back in the wheelchair and said: Take me back to the hospital.

I am thanked to this day for bringing John to our community.

When you would pass John in the halls of Congress, and he would greet you with, "Hello, my brother," he made you believe that you were actually his brother. We must all commit to working harder to be a little more like John Lewis.

Good-bye, John, and thank you. Godspeed, my brother.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEAL. What an honor to be here with the Committee on Ways and Means' family.

They said pictures are worth a thousand words, and I am going to try to go through these as rapidly as I can.

The first picture is my son and daughter, who came—as Mike was just

explaining as part of his family—to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, but they had to be back in school the next day and so they couldn't actually march across the bridge that Sunday.

John said: Wait a minute. That won't do. He put them in a car and drove them out there, and for 20 minutes talked to them about that experience and what it was. And it was very tense, very graphic, the violence that he endured and what they went through. And I could see both my daughter and my son looking at him, and they were taking it all in.

And my daughter, very innocently—she was 13 at the time—said: Mr. Lewis, did you ever have any fun?

And John Lewis put his head back and had the broadest grin. He said: Well, sure, darling, we did. You know, at night we used to go back and we would pitch our tents, and we would make campfires, and we sat around and told stories. And we sang and we danced. He said: I can still see Andy Young in his coveralls doing the jitterbug, and he could dance. Andy Young in his coveralls doing the jitterbug.

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD our other items, but this iconic photo says it all about John Lewis.

Madam Speaker, on the day that we passed the Affordable Care Act, the day before, he had been spat on. So was Reverend Cleaver, and so were others who were walking over here to vote on that bill that day. But John Lewis said: No—we had a caucus that morning with President Obama—he said: Say nothing of this. Remember that during the movement, we cast this aside. This is a distraction. Don't be taken in by this crowd.

We learned about it the next day. And at that caucus I asked him to get up and address the caucus. And he said: Let's stay calm. Let's stay together, and let's make sure that we keep our eye on the prize.

He went to walk away from the microphone, and then he stepped back, and he said: 45 years to the day, we marched from Selma to Montgomery, he said, and let me tell you, we faced far worse crowds than are out here today. So let's lock arms. Let's go across that street and pass that bill. And we did.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for convening our Committee on Ways and Means' family.

It was a bittersweet moment this morning as we gathered outside the Capitol saying good-bye to John. His visits to Portland touched thousands of people, and I heard so much about them. He was not just a civil rights icon and a tremendous human being and an inspiration, he was a moral compass of our Committee on Ways and Means. He was the living, breath-

ing manifestation of policy that impacts every family in America, not just merely numbers and dry policy, but things that matter.

Too seldom does the consideration of everyday citizens—especially the poor, the weak, and the disadvantaged—get the same attention as the rich and powerful and well-connected. Well, that is not the fault of John Lewis. And I would hope that all of us here who are celebrating his life, would be inspired by his deeds, by his life's work.

As John would say, "not just our words, but our deeds." And I hope our moral compass of the Committee on Ways and Means will guide us as we move forward to give the American people the policies that John would have expected.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), our friend, who asked me on the floor last week, will the committee be paying a tribute to John Lewis.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, we all have these memories of Mr. Lewis, and some of you knew him far longer and far better than I did, but I can just tell you this: The time that I spent with Mr. Lewis that I remember the most was not so much in a committee hearing or not so much on the floor, but in March of 2015 when I took my 8-year-old grandson to Selma for the 50th anniversary of crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

We started off in Birmingham and went to the Baptist church. And George, my grandson, could not understand, when we were looking at this, he was looking at some men in hoods. He said: Grandpa, who are those guys?

I said: Those are the Ku Klux Klan.

He said: Who are they?

I said: George, these are people that you don't want to be associated with. They are haters.

He said: Well, what did they do?

I said: Well, this is the church they bombed, and they killed little girls that were practicing for a choir.

And he goes: Why would anybody want to kill little girls?

I said: Because they were filled with hate. They weren't filled with love.

Now, at that same trip, Mr. Lewis was with us. Mr. Lewis was there. And I said: Mr. Lewis, I just want you to meet my grandson, George.

And he stopped and he talked to George.

And George said to him: Mr. Lewis, why do they have on hoods? If they are so tough and they are so brave and they are so courageous, why did they have to wear a hood?

He said: George, at 8-years-old, you get it far better than some adults do.

Now, we go to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and Mr. Lewis stops to take time to talk to a little boy. Not for a minute, not if you stand off to the side, son, I will get with you later on.

No, he stops, he walks away from other people who were surrounding him and talking to him, and he stoops down

and he talks to an 8-year-old boy to tell him how proud he is that that child is going to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with him.

And as I watched that, I thought, what better example could any person give to a child than to spend that time with them. And I thought at that point, Mr. Lewis and I are both grandfathers. What an example for grandfathers, not just an example for fellow Americans, but what an example of who this man really was.

And if you look on his tombstone, it is going to say born February 21, 1940; died July 17, 2020—80 years. The time between his birth and the time between his death are some of the most significant years in our country's history of someone who stopped to recognize what was going on and said: Not on my time. I will do everything I can to change this. I will go through any sacrifice. I will endure any type of pain, any type of ridicule, any type of beatings to prove a point to say, It is time.

The one thing I always thought—I never, ever called him “John” by the way, because I just thought that would be disrespectful. Some of you know him much better than I did, so it was always “Mr. Lewis.”

Mr. Lewis, every time I would see him, I would say: Good morning, Mr. Lewis. He would say: Good morning, my brother. We would have a subcommittee meeting, and I would say: Mr. Lewis, it was really good being with you. He would say: It was good being with you, my brother.

And I say tonight, as we are here, we are not saying “good-bye, my brother.” We are saying, “until we meet again, my brother.” What a phenomenal human being and somebody who is going to be missed forever—80 years of being the finest example of humankind you could possibly be.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to speak tonight. This is truly a family of the Committee on Ways and Means. We really do appreciate each other.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Madam Speaker, for the past 3 years, it has been my good fortune to sit next to Mr. Lewis on the dais of the Committee on Ways and Means.

His warmth, his humility, his lack of bitterness after all that he endured was truly extraordinary. His decades of service touched so many lives. With his multi-volume graphic novel, “March,” he found a way to reach a younger audience with his enduring message of struggle, hope, and love.

Reading it to my own grandchildren, they were hooked early when John talked about the fact that, as a young boy, he preached to his chickens—and that is how he became the great orator that we know him as being. He noted that: They would never quite say amen.

The dedication in March reads, “To the past and future children of the movement.” Not just this work, but his entire life's work was dedicated to the past and future children of the movement. For all that you have done, for all our children, John, we say “amen.”

John knew that America could not call itself a democracy until everyone could cast a ballot, and that the struggle for voting rights was a struggle for democracy itself. He dedicated himself to completing the promise of the Declaration of Independence as he exhorted the crowd down the Mall here at the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington to “Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this Nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete.”

And, again, in 2015, as he annually commemorated that March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, John asked “Get out there and push and pull until we redeem the soul of America.”

John Lewis worked so tirelessly to get in “good trouble.” When the LBJ Foundation from Austin awarded him with the Liberty & Justice For All Award, I learned that he had experienced over 40 arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries. But then I had seen, sitting next to him, some of the marks on his balding head of those very attacks.

Through it all, he maintained that “good trouble” was what America really needed. There will never be a time when America can afford to forget the legacy of John Lewis. He fought so long, so selflessly to advance our democracy, and he called the right to vote “sacred.”

Madam Speaker, we honor his tireless labor by picking up the baton and voting. We honor his legacy when we vote and enable more of our friends and neighbors to do the same. John Lewis now rests, but we cannot. Inspired by his sacrifice, we must continue his struggle.

No one can ever replace him, but no one person must. There are so many who share John Lewis' dream. And we will grow our numbers, and when we do, we will overcome.

□ 2015

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a very close friend of John Lewis.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, you know, if there are angels on Earth, John would be one. He was the most angelic person I have ever known, generous to a fault, easy to get along with.

John was known for marching, but I am reminded that the Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. John was and is a good man, always looking out for the underdog, always looking out for the disadvantaged, the poor, the needy, the hopeless, the helpless.

John has been an inspiration for me for more than 50 years, when he was a

mere teenager. If I had a message, I would say that the songwriter probably had John in mind when he said:

If you give the best of your service,
Telling the world that the Savior is come;
Be not dismayed when men don't believe
you.

Pick up the cross and run swiftly to him.
He'll understand.

And we all say: John, well done. Well done.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Few men ever achieve what John Lewis has in his life, and few men do so while genuinely caring about every single person they meet.

When I joined the Ways and Means Committee as a new member, John made a point to make me feel welcome.

Despite all that he had accomplished in his life, John was never too busy or too important for you.

John made such a profound impact on all of us because his kindness, humility, and gentle strength were rooted in his nature.

He understood that his life's work could never be finished, and he never missed an opportunity to inspire younger generations to carry that work forward.

I will never forget when John's inspiration healed deep wounds in my own community. In 2005, a high school in my district was struggling with racial tension between Black and Latinx students. Students were hopelessly divided, and John offered to visit the high school with me.

He spoke to students and their parents and helped them understand that the civil rights movement benefited all disenfranchised communities. He reminded us that when minority communities allow ourselves to be pitted against each other, we all suffer.

As serious as John was, he also had a lighthearted and fun side to him as well. I will never forget when he made a video of himself dancing “Gangnam Style” to encourage young people to vote. He was up for anything that promoted voting and civic engagement.

John had a profound impact on my son, Joaquin, when we walked together in Selma across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Joaquin, who was 7 at the time, was able to walk with John Lewis and retrace the footsteps of history with a living legend. Joaquin was so moved that he read all of John's books and wrote a report on him during a unit on African-American history in school.

I will always cherish the memories that my family and I were lucky enough to share with John.

It is a cruel irony that we should lose John when the qualities that made him great are needed so desperately today in our government. But his passing is a heartbreaking reminder of what really matters.

Because of John, we know that riding our society of injustice requires

all of us to get in good trouble. Because of John, we know we can withstand true adversity.

History will remember John Lewis as a hero who made the world better for all. It is worth remembering that he did so by showing and reminding us all to be better versions of ourselves.

I am so grateful to have called him a friend, a colleague, and a mentor. My husband and son were here this morning to say good-bye to Mr. Lewis for the last time. My son thought it was important to see him off on his journey to walk with angels. We will miss him dearly.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, as has been said, John Lewis grew up on a chicken farm to sharecroppers in Troy, Alabama. During that time, there was great pain and suffering for our African-American brothers and sisters in the segregated South.

John Lewis's mother, in the summer of 1951, when John was 11, wanted to get him out of the heat of the segregated South, and she sent him to a place called Buffalo, New York, my hometown. Mrs. Lewis had baked for 3 days, because stopping in a diner along the way was not an option for the Lewis family.

John Lewis, when he got to Buffalo, he saw young kids, Black and White, playing together in Olmsted Park, now appropriately called Martin Luther King Jr. Park. He saw White women and Black women drinking from the same water fountain. He saw his uncles, Black men, working aside White men in the steel and flour mills of Buffalo, New York.

It was from that experience in Buffalo, in the summer of 1951, at age 11, that John said that he believed the desegregation of the South was possible, and he committed his lifework to that cause.

On March 7, 1965, as we know, John led a peaceful civil rights march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The idea was to march from Selma to Montgomery, the State's capital, a distance of about 55 miles. There were 148 State troopers waiting at the foot of the bridge for John and the peaceful demonstrators.

The State troopers said to cease and disperse. John led his fellow marchers, and they knelt and prayed. Then, they were attacked.

They broke John's skull. But before John went to the hospital to be administered to, he insisted on waiting till the news media got there. With blood pouring down his face, he admonished the President of the United States to take up the civil rights cause.

On August 6 of that year, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Johnson.

John said, oddly, one time that he was grateful for the police beating because had that event not occurred, had

that not become Bloody Sunday, it would have just passed as a local news story. Nobody would have witnessed it, and nothing would have changed.

John always said, you sometimes have to give a little blood to redeem the soul of a nation.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a testament to the vision of John Lewis, a man of goodness and a man of grace, who at the age of 11, in the summer of 1951, was inspired by what he saw in Buffalo and had the presence of mind and the courage to act on that inspiration.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise again to honor the life and legacy of John Robert Lewis, a civil rights hero, mentor, and dear friend.

It is rare that you grow up to meet your hero and rarer still that you get to befriend them.

Growing up in Selma, Alabama, and a lifelong member of Brown Chapel AME Church, year after year, I would sit and marvel at those foot soldiers coming to my church to reenact that Bloody Sunday. There was Coretta Scott King and Joseph Lowery. There was Amelia Boynton Robinson, but, of course, there was John Lewis.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would grow up and become Alabama's first Black congresswoman and not only walk the halls with John Lewis but get to sit on the same committee with John Lewis.

John was a slice of home for me in Congress. You see, looking into his eyes, I would see home, and all I would want to do is emulate home. John was a chief deputy whip, so I wanted to be a chief deputy whip. John was on the Ways and Means Committee. Sounded good to me.

John was always allowing people to radiate in his smile and in his light. He could never talk about voting rights—if I were within earshot, he would say: "And TERRI SEWELL represents Selma. Where is Terri?" And we would laugh. Those private moments were so precious to me. Those are the moments that I will cherish.

When I would call him the boy from Troy, he would call me the girl from Selma. We would laugh at how far our State had come, how far our Nation had come. I would say: "But, John, we have so much more to do." He would remind me that the better days of our Nation were ahead of it.

I don't know how I will continue to fight for the right to vote and restore the Voting Rights Act that he shed a little blood on a bridge in my hometown for, but I know that I am not alone, that John has sowed seeds of hope and inspiration into so many of us.

We are all disciples of John, and we all owe it to him to pick up that mantle and to continue the march, the march toward a more perfect Union.

For, you see, John has sowed seeds in all of us. Can't you hear him? Just close your eyes. If you see something that is unjust, unfair, you have a moral obligation to do something about it, to get in the way.

Never give up. Never give in. Keep the faith. Keep your eyes on the prize.

Rest in peace, my friend. Know that we all will pick up that mantle and continue your march.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I was born in Selma, Alabama, and I was 3 years old when John Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

My family moved away when I was young, but I still carried my birthplace. We moved quite frequently, and every new town we would go to, I would go to a school, and a teacher would ask where I was born. I would say Selma, and that started a whole conversation about what happened in Selma.

It is on my passport: Selma, Alabama. So many people who have seen that have started a conversation about what John Lewis and so many people did, crossing that bridge in Selma.

The story has become part of me, part of my life.

And I never, ever imagined, first, that I would be a Member of Congress, let alone have the opportunity to serve on the Ways and Means Committee with my hero, John Lewis.

One of the first trips I ever took as a Member of Congress was to go to Selma, to go back to my birthplace with TERRI SEWELL, with John Lewis. We were the Selma caucus, the three of us, on the Ways and Means Committee.

Just to be able to experience that, to talk to John—I had the chance to go to South Africa with John when he gave a talk at the 50th anniversary of Bobby Kennedy's "Ripples of Hope" speech and talk to John and hear his stories.

He lifted all of us up. He was an icon, yet when you were with him, I think we all became better people. He lifted us up, and he reminded all of us—in fact, he showed all of us what is possible, what each of us can do, how we can create change if we stand up, if we speak up for what is right and for what is just and what is fair.

□ 2030

So we will continue to honor John, each of us, by doing that, by speaking out, by getting into "good trouble," necessary trouble.

And, John, we will always remember your words, your kindness, your leadership. Thank you for passing a little bit of that on to each of us. Rest in peace. We will miss you terribly.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember my friend and colleague, John Lewis.

To say John Lewis was a civil rights icon barely captures his legacy because

he was so much more than that. He was a living piece of the civil rights movement, a connection to historic injustice, and a reminder of our power to remedy it.

John didn't just talk about voting rights, he nearly died defending the right to vote. And because of him and his determination to do what was right, to stand up to injustice whenever he saw it, and to cause a little "good trouble" whenever it was needed, our country is a more just and equitable one.

It was one of the greatest privileges of my life that I was not only able to serve alongside John on the Ways and Means Committee, but I was able to march alongside him as well. In Alabama, he led many of us on the annual pilgrimage of Selma across that Edmund Pettus Bridge.

But throughout his life, he gave voice to the voiceless, fought to empower the powerless, and stood up for those who could not.

I will never forget that June day here in Washington, D.C., after 49 people were shot dead in Florida in yet another senseless mass shooting. John said, "Enough is enough." He came to the House floor, right there, in fact, and sat down. We joined him for 26 straight hours while the Nation tuned in, transfixed.

When the President was keeping immigrant children in cages, John led us on a march to the CBP offices to demand these children be released. It was so hot and humid that many of us felt like fainting, but I looked over at John, and there he was still standing strong and marching. I thought to myself: His strength is the result of decades of civil disobedience.

This past week, we passed the historic NO BAN Act to stop the senseless travel ban against Muslims. And it was John who, 3 years ago, went to the Atlanta airport when the ban was first announced to demand answers and release. And when he was essentially ignored by Customs and Border Protection, he started a sit-in right that moment at the airport.

John was always a moral voice urging us to think of others and to do all that we can to improve their lives. Even in the face of the worst, John never stopped believing in our capacity for the best. I will miss him and his guidance. John may be gone, but we will keep marching.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for arranging for this opportunity for the Ways and Means Committee to come together to honor our brother, John Lewis.

Just listening to my colleagues gives me a greater sense of just how privileged we all have been. I think we often take for granted the people who are around us, and I don't think we can ever take John for granted, but to a certain extent, when I arrived here, I got used to seeing him on the floor.

And it is hard to come to this floor without having a little bit of anticipation that, of the many privileges that come with serving our country in this place, the one privilege that I could always count on was that, even on those tough days when the job wasn't so great, we could always plan on seeing John Lewis and getting some encouragement from him.

I met John before I came to Congress, just about 8 years ago, through my Uncle Dale. Dale Kildee served here for a long time. He served almost a quarter of a century with John and loved John—still does.

I have talked to Dale about John quite often. That was a relationship that led to me wanting to make sure that I tried to develop that same relationship and, of course, becoming a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

We spend so much time together, despite the fact that we haven't been able to the last couple of months. As a committee, we spend an enormous amount of time working together and having meals together and talking to one another. It felt like I had a chance to get so much closer to John, and I will never forget that.

As big and monumental a life as he led, as important a voice as he was, as such a soldier for justice and a figure in American history, as good and decent as a man he was in that respect, as we all know now, of course, is that he was that good a friend. He was that good a human being. He was that generous a person.

For me, the last couple of months, obviously, it has been hard, but it has been special, because John, under our temporary rules, John, of course, hasn't been able to be with us in these last couple of months as he was battling a sickness but asked if I would be willing to carry his proxy and cast his votes here on the floor.

I don't know that a greater honor could ever be bestowed upon me by him, but he was always grateful to me. I had to speak to him before each vote series, and he was always so grateful.

I thought to myself: John, I am grateful to you that you have given me this honor to cast a vote for the person who is most known for the sacred right to vote of anyone in our generation, perhaps anyone in our Nation's history.

The way we honor him, though, is with moments like this; but the best way that we honor him is to carry his work forward, to continue to do his work. And so the way I view it, while, for a couple of months I did carry his vote to this floor, even though John is gone, I think we can all continue to carry his vote, carry his voice, carry his work to this place and all across the country.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for giving us this opportunity.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of our colleague, John Lewis.

In my short time in Congress, I have had the privilege of working with John as members of the Ways and Means Committee. And in that time, I can tell you John is a true statesman.

Here in Washington, and even inside this Chamber, we see some individuals with personal agendas who are only interested in transactional relationships; however, John was a compassionate soul, dedicated to the cause of equality and justice.

Because of John's experiences with discrimination and hate, he brought to this body a thoughtful and passionate approach to ensuring that all Americans can experience the blessings of liberty that are guaranteed in our Constitution.

He understood the pain of a divided nation, the progress we have made over the past century, and the challenges we still face. Through it all, he met anger and violence with peace and love, a demonstration of his character that I think all of us can learn from.

I used to live in Nashville, Tennessee, and one of John's earliest acts was seeking peaceful change and organizing sit-ins at Nashville lunch counters. This is reminiscent to me of a courageous group of young people in my hometown, Wichita, who also sought equal treatment at a popular downtown lunch counter. The 1958 Dockum Drug Store sit-in was part of an early movement in cities across the country that helped advance desegregation.

I am so thankful that the youth in Wichita, along with men and women like John Lewis, had the boldness and fortitude to advance necessary and overdue changes in a racially segregated environment.

While we served on different sides of the aisle, his compassion for others was evident and his love of country unwavering. My memories of John will be of his legacy and his service. I am grateful to have served alongside him during my tenure in Congress, and I am thankful for his dedication to equality for Americans, the Georgians he represented, and the United States.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for leading this special hour.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlemen from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for organizing this opportunity for those of us who served with John on the Ways and Means Committee to be able to come together as a committee and mourn him.

I have to say sitting here for the last hour or so and listening to all of my colleagues share their remembrances about John Lewis and just how special he was to them has truly been one of the best hours that I have spent on the House floor, and it has just been beautiful to listen to. I think it is a side of Congress that people rarely get to see, and I think we would be better off, all of us would be better off, if we were able to do this more.

When I hear the name John Lewis, obviously, this is one of the great American heroes in history, but that is not the first thing I think of.

When he comes to mind, the first thing I think of was just what a kind and quiet and humble and gentle man he was, always so nice to me from my very first day as a freshman, when I heard a voice behind me that said, “Young man, is this seat taken?” And I looked to the side of me and it was John Lewis, and I couldn’t even speak.

He was just always that person to everyone. And, to me, that is a great lesson that should inspire us all to be better people.

I also believe, as a matter of faith, that I don’t think it was an accident or a coincidence that the Lord called him home at this time during this summer of crisis in our Nation.

America has not quite become. We are constantly in the act of becoming. America is a nation born not of a race or a tribe, but out of ideas, a commitment to ideals. Someone who firmly believed that with every fiber of his being to deep in his soul was John Lewis. And throughout this year, and at this time, I know there are many in our society who are questioning the future of America, as it seems like we are coming apart at the seams.

Well, let’s listen to the voice again of John Lewis, someone who never lost his faith and his optimism in this country, what it stands for, what it is called to be, and what he truly believed it will be. He gave his blood for this cause. He lived his life for it. And let him continue to be an example for all of us today.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEAL for doing this. I found this the most healing experience since John’s loss.

Madam Speaker, as we approach the end of our life, it is fitting to think about how we will be remembered. Will they say: Was he brave? Was he kind? Was he humble? Was he honest?

But time wipes all memories away, and what is left? What impact did we have on the lives of others, of the people to come?

John Lewis is the best of men, the most Christ-like person I have ever known, and he changed the personal trajectories of tens of millions of people.

Born into poverty and racism, John has become the desperate hope that we need. Hammarskjöld wrote that all life asks of us is that we live it with courage. I grieve, we all grieve deeply this most courageous man, and thank God for his life.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

□ 2045

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

I rise to honor truly a great American, a real-life hero, who I was fortunate enough to have as a colleague for 4 years, including the 2 years serving together on the Ways and Means Committee. Congressman John Lewis has been an inspiration to me from a very young age.

I remember the first time I saw him on the Walter Cronkite evening news. He was walking across the Pettus Bridge in Selma. I felt very strongly about him and what he was doing. Madam Speaker, I was 10 years old, and I found him to be inspiring. He was purposeful. He was driven to make a difference. He was driven for “good trouble.”

As a result of his action and because of the action of another gentleman who was a part of the Big Six, Whitney Young, I worked at the Urban League. I recall being elected to the Pennsylvania State House at 26 years of age, and it was John Lewis that inspired me, though I had never been to Alabama, but I had seen him on television. I remember that impression that he left upon me, because—although I had heard all the words I have heard today—I had never seen such determination.

So you can imagine growing up in the city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, him from Selma, Alabama, and the influence he was having.

I also honored him by welcoming Congressman Lewis to the southeast part of Pennsylvania for a gun reform ceasefire. I recall introducing him. I recall all of that.

But now, Madam Speaker, we must carry on his work of civil rights, equal opportunity. Most of all, we must rededicate ourselves to protecting the right to vote and making use of hard-won rights, a right for which John Lewis and many others sacrificed for all of us.

So I say to you, Madam Speaker and Mr. Chairman, he should rest in peace and power.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order this evening.

This morning the Capitol bid farewell for the last time to our colleague and friend, the inimitable American hero, our beloved John Lewis.

In the days since his passing, countless words have been delivered in tribute to John’s life, his accomplishments, his character, his importance to our Nation.

I have no doubt in the years to come John Lewis will take his place in our history books among not only the champions of the civil rights movement but also in the pantheon of historical giants who have literally reshaped the foundation and recalibrated the moral compass of our Nation.

But as our Speaker clearly recognized on Tuesday when his body was

brought to lie in state under the Capitol’s dome, no words, no matter how great the tribute, can match those of John himself. From his famous speech in 1963 at the March on Washington to his frequent and inspired remarks to his fellow Members of Congress, often in what seemed like the darkest moments, John Lewis’ voice thundered, but his words were always uplifting.

He talked to us about “good trouble,” noting that there is nothing wrong with a little agitation for what is right and what is fair.

He instructed us to see all sides of an issue, “You have to tell the whole truth, the good and the bad, maybe some things that are uncomfortable for some people.”

And he always looked to the future with hope and optimism. “Take a long, hard look down the road you will have to travel once you have made a commitment to work for change. Know that this transformation will not happen right away. Change often takes time.” But he also said: “If you’re not hopeful and optimistic, then you just give up. You have to take the long, hard look and just believe that if you’re consistent, you will succeed.”

John may have left this Earth, but his inspiration remains deep within us. I hope in the days ahead we can honor his memory by passing into law the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

And wouldn’t it be fitting to also rename the Edmund Pettus Bridge—where 55 years ago John put his life on the line to change the world—the John Robert Lewis Memorial Bridge to reflect the change that John brought to the world.

May his memory remain a blessing for each of us and for our country at these most difficult times and hopefully in better times ahead.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, it was such a great gift and honor when John Lewis would call me like he called many of us, “my brother,” to serve on his committee, to ask him to give the closing prayer at this year’s National Prayer Breakfast, to travel to Selma with him, and like all he came in contact with, to learn from him.

When the Christian church was in its infancy, there was tremendous infighting, different tribes and sects, different personalities battling over the direction of this new organization that will go on to transform the world.

Paul the Apostle, one of the earliest and most prolific leaders, was imprisoned by the Romans and ultimately beheaded for his belief in Jesus.

While in prison in 62 AD, Paul wrote a series of letters to the followers of Jesus instructing them how to conduct themselves.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul gave this instruction in chapter 4, versus 1 to 3: “I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace."

John Lewis also a prisoner for the Lord many times, lived that model life worthy of his calling with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with everyone through love, striving to preserve unity through the bond of peace.

John Lewis showed us that strength comes from humility and gentleness and patience and love, striving for unity through peace.

I know I need to be better. Thank you, John Lewis. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The time of the gentleman has expired.

REFLECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for having this Special Order in which we rise, remember, and recognize one of our country's civil rights champions, one of America's heroes, my friend, our colleague, and, yes, the conscience of Congress, Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Now, unlike some other Members that spoke earlier, even though John was a fellow Member of Congress, he was a fellow Member on the Ways and Means Committee, I have to say I never got used to having John Lewis as a fellow colleague.

As Mr. KELLY alluded to and said, I should say, we do have a family here on the Ways and Means Committee, but it was clear that John was that favorite child. All of us were in awe as to everything he did and everything that John stood for.

And that is part of the reason why my wife and I took our two daughters down to Selma, Alabama, this last March to walk arm in arm with John Lewis across the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the last time.

Now, obviously, with the ceremonies this week in John's passing we have been thinking a lot about John, but this past weekend I could not get him out of my head. And it resonated with me the most when my wife and I took our two daughters up to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and we stood on the battlefield, in that cemetery and at that monument and read the speech that President Lincoln gave to consecrate that hallowed ground. And I can tell you it reminded me of the lifelong fight of John Lewis. It reminded me of

our Nation's lifelong fight for equality. And it reminded me of our continued fight today. And you will see what I mean when I use some of that speech in my following remarks.

Although we are a Nation conceived in liberty and equality, it seems as if now our Nation is divided and being tested as to whether we can endure together. Now we gather here tonight to honor the death of a man who literally shed blood so that our Nation can live together. But in a larger sense what we say here tonight is nothing compared to what John Lewis did throughout his life.

See, as with most of our speeches on the House floor, the world will little note nor long remember what we say here tonight, but it can never forget what John did, not only in this Chamber, but also for civil rights and for this country.

So it is for us, from Congress Members to frontline workers to peaceful protestors to be dedicated to the unfinished work which John fought for and so nobly advanced. And with the passing of John Lewis let us be dedicated to the task remaining before us, that from John's life we take increased devotion to the cause for which he gave full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve, that his actions, his service, his sacrifice shall never be in vain, that this Nation under God shall continue to have freedom and equality and that our government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall never perish from this Earth, but shall always live with the conscience of our country, John Robert Lewis.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for doing this Special Order hour to remember the life of John Lewis.

He called other people "brother." He called me "young brother," so I guess I was the little guy.

He was such an amazing man. He had a huge character. He was a civil rights giant who amplified the voices of a generation. His commitment to dismantling hatred and oppression in whatever its form was something that inspired generations, and it is something that we all know that we stand on his shoulders on for our own fights for greater equality in this country.

His strength and resolve, showcased during the Nashville sit-in movement, the Freedom Riders, and the March on Washington gave us the momentum to carry on through adversity and taught us what it means to get into some "good trouble."

And those who knew John and marched with him, whether it was to protest the detention of immigrant children, as I did a few years ago, or to speak out against racial injustice, always felt a little bit more hopeful when he was around. It created that little bit of a ripple of hope from person to person when he was marching with you.

I believe he also created a little bit of a ripple of change in every single person he met that transformed and empowered communities and for future generations still unborn. That is the kind of legacy he left.

But I also got to see him as just a humble person, a regular person. And I noticed when we would walk from the Ways and Means Committee room back here to vote, I would always kind of walk with him, and people would come up and ask for a photograph, you know, school children and adults alike. And they would get around him and, you know, I was pushed aside, and I took the phone and I was proud to take the photographs. He would always say: Hi, I am John Lewis. What is your name and where are you from? And he took that moment to make it about them, not about him.

Imagine if we were all like that, where we just paused a little bit and took the moment to make it about the other person, the other party, the other State, the other person from a different country. Imagine what this country would be like. It would be a lot better. It would be a lot more hopeful and would create that ripple of change that we all desire.

I know John is getting up to the pearly gates of Heaven with Saint Peter, who is the guardian of those gates, and John is going to say: Hi, I am John Lewis, nice to meet you.

□ 2100

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, the Nation had a chance tonight to hear about the affection and regard that we held for a very important member of the Ways and Means family, John Lewis.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLY for yielding me the time. He did urge at a moment last week: I hope that we will be able to do a bipartisan tribute to John.

I said we planned one, and we want to make sure both sides are involved.

I just want to close on this note, as we travel to Atlanta tomorrow to say good-bye to John. At a Committee on Ways and Means Democratic retreat in New York about 2 years ago, with a very distinguished alumnus of the Democratic Party as well, Charlie Rangel came over to the dinner. John, myself, and former Chairman Rangel, we were sitting and just talking at the end of the night. After the conversation, when John got up and left, Charlie Rangel said to me: You know, Rich, there were many of us who did the right thing along the way. Many of us participated fully in the civil rights movement. But John Lewis would have died for the cause.

Pretty remarkable: John Lewis would have died for the cause.

Tonight, Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Members of the House, both political parties, and the Ways and Means family for a nice tribute to our friend, John Lewis.