

John Lewis (Georgia politician)

John Robert Lewis (born February 21, 1940) is an American politician and civil rights leader. He is the U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district, serving since 1987, and is the dean of the Georgia congressional delegation. The district includes the northern three-quarters of Atlanta.

Lewis is the only living "Big Six" leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement, having been the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), playing a key role in the struggle to end legalized racial discrimination and segregation. A member of the Democratic Party, Lewis is a member of the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives and has served as a Chief Deputy Whip since 1991 and Senior Chief Deputy Whip since 2003. As Senior Chief Deputy Whip he has led other Chief Deputy Whips and serves as the primary assistant to the Democratic Whip.

1 Early life

Lewis was born in Troy, Alabama, the third son of Willie Mae (née Carter) and Eddie Lewis.^[1] His parents were sharecroppers.^[2] Lewis grew up in Pike County, Alabama. He also has a deaf brother named Edward. He has other siblings, including brothers Grant, Freddie, Sammy, Adolph, and William, and sisters named Ethel, Rosa, and Ora. He survived a tornado at the age of four with fourteen cousins. Lewis had only seen two white people in his life until age six.^[3] Lewis was educated at the Pike County Training High School, Brundidge, Alabama, and also American Baptist Theological Seminary and at Fisk University, both in Nashville, Tennessee, where he became a leader in the Nashville sit-ins. While a student, he was invited to attend nonviolence workshops held in the basement of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church by the Rev. James Lawson and Rev. Kelly Miller Smith. There he became a dedicated adherent to the discipline and philosophy of nonviolence, which he still practices today. The Nashville sit-in movement was responsible for the desegregation of lunch counters in downtown Nashville. Lewis was arrested and jailed many times in the struggle to desegregate the downtown area of the city. Afterwards, he participated in the Freedom Rides sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality or CORE, led by James Farmer and ultimately became a national leader in the struggle for civil rights and respect for human dignity.^[2] In an interview, John Lewis said "I saw racial discrimination as a young child.

I saw those signs that said 'White Men, Colored Men, White Women, Colored Women'. ... I remember as a young child with some of my brothers and sisters and first cousins going down to the public library trying to get library cards, trying to check some books out, and we were told by the librarian that the library was for whites only and not for 'coloreds'." During a rather dangerous childhood trip to Buffalo, NY, John saw for the first time black men and white men working together, desegregated water fountains, and for the first time, John began to believe the dream of equality was more than just a dream. Lewis followed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and Rosa Parks on the radio. He and his family supported the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

2 Civil rights activism

John Lewis was the youngest of the Big Six civil rights leaders and the chairman of the SNCC from 1963 to 1966, some of the most tumultuous years of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. During his tenure, SNCC opened Freedom Schools, launched the Mississippi Freedom Summer, and organized the voter registration efforts that led to the pivotal Selma to Montgomery marches. As the chairman of SNCC, Lewis had written a speech in reaction to the Civil Rights Bill of 1963. He denounced the bill because it didn't protect African Americans against police brutality. It also did not provide African Americans the right to vote.

He graduated from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville and then received a bachelor's degree in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University. As a student, Lewis was very dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement. He organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville and took part in many other civil rights activities as part of the Nashville Student Movement. He was instrumental in organizing student sit-ins, bus boycotts and nonviolent protests in the fight for voter and racial equality.

In 1960, Lewis became one of the 13 original Freedom Riders. There were seven whites and six blacks who were determined to ride from Washington, DC, to New Orleans in an integrated fashion. At that time, several states of the old Confederacy still enforced laws prohibiting black and white riders from sitting next to each other on public transportation. The Freedom Ride, originated by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and revived by Farmer and CORE, was initiated to pressure the federal govern-

ment to enforce the Supreme Court decision in *Boydton v. Virginia* (1960) that declared segregated interstate bus travel to be unconstitutional. In the South, Lewis and other nonviolent Freedom Riders were beaten by angry mobs, arrested at times and taken to jail. When CORE gave up on the Freedom Ride because of the violence, Lewis and fellow activist Diane Nash arranged for the Nashville students to take it over and bring it to a successful conclusion.

In 1963, when Chuck McDew stepped down as SNCC chairman, Lewis, one of the founding members of SNCC, was quickly elected to take over. Lewis's experience at that point was already widely respected. His courage and his tenacious adherence to the philosophy of reconciliation and non-violence made him emerge as a leader. By this time, he had been arrested 24 times in the nonviolent struggle for equal justice. He held the post of chairman until 1966.



Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. (Leaders of the march)

By 1963, as chairman of SNCC, he was named one of the "Big Six" leaders who were organizing the March on Washington, along with Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, James Farmer and Roy Wilkins. The occasion of Dr. King's celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech, Lewis also spoke at the March and is its last remaining living speaker. At 23 he was the youngest speaker that day.^[4]

In 1964, Lewis coordinated SNCC's efforts for "Mississippi Freedom Summer," a campaign to register black voters across the South. The Freedom Summer was an attempt to expose college students from around the country to the perils of African-American life in the South. Lewis traveled the country encouraging students to spend their summer break trying to help people in Mississippi, the most recalcitrant state in the union, to register and vote. Lewis became nationally known during his prominent role in the Selma to Montgomery marches.

On March 7, 1965 – a day that would become known as "Bloody Sunday" – Lewis and fellow activist Hosea Williams led over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. At the end of the bridge, they were met by Alabama State Troopers who ordered them to disperse. When the marchers stopped to pray, the police discharged tear gas and mounted troopers charged the demonstrators, beating them with night sticks. Lewis's skull was fractured, but he escaped across the bridge to Brown Chapel, the movement's headquarter church in Selma. Before Lewis could be taken to the hospital he appeared before the television cameras calling on President Johnson to intervene in Alabama. Lewis bears scars from the incident on his head that are still visible today.

Historian Howard Zinn wrote: "At the great Washington March of 1963, the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), John Lewis, speaking to the same enormous crowd that heard Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech, was prepared to ask the right question: 'Which side is the federal government on?' That sentence was eliminated from his speech by organizers of the March to avoid offending the Kennedy Administration. But Lewis and his fellow SNCC workers had experienced, again and again, the strange passivity of the national government in the face of Southern violence."^[5]



Lewis (far right) with Bayard Rustin, Andrew Young, Congressman William Fitts Ryan, and James L. Farmer, Jr.

"John Lewis and SNCC had reason to be angry. At 21 years old, John Lewis was the first of the Freedom Riders to be assaulted while in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He tried to enter a whites-only waiting room and two white men attacked him, injuring his face and kicking him in the ribs. Nevertheless, only two weeks later Lewis joined a *Freedom Ride* that was bound for Jackson. "We were determined not to let any act of violence keep us from our goal. We knew our lives could be threatened, but we had made up our minds not to turn back," Lewis said recently in regard to his perseverance following the act of violence.^[6]

In an interview with CNN during the 40th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, Lewis recounted the sheer amount of violence he and the 12 other original Freedom Riders endured. In Anniston, Alabama, the bus was fire-bombed

after **Ku Klux Klan** members deflated its tires, forcing it to come to a stop. In **Birmingham**, the Riders were mercilessly beaten, and in **Montgomery**, an angry mob met the bus, and Lewis was hit in the head with a wooden crate. “It was very violent. I thought I was going to die. I was left lying at the **Greyhound** bus station in **Montgomery** unconscious,” said Lewis, remembering the incident.



Lewis at meeting of American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1964

The original intent of the Freedom Rides was to test the new law that banned segregation in public transportation. It also exposed the passivity of the government regarding violence against citizens of the country who were simply acting in accordance to the law.^[7] The federal government had trusted the notoriously racist **Alabama** police to protect the Riders, but did nothing itself, except to have **FBI** agents take notes. The **Kennedy Administration** then called for a “cooling-off period”, a moratorium on Freedom Rides.^[5] Lewis had been imprisoned for forty days in the **Mississippi State Penitentiary** in **Sunflower County, Mississippi**, after participating in a Freedom Riders activity in that state.^[8]

In February 2009, forty-eight years after he had been bloodied by the **Ku Klux Klan** during civil rights marches, Lewis received an apology on national television from a white southerner, former Klansman **Elwin Wilson**.^{[9][10]}

After leaving **SNCC** in 1966, Lewis worked with community organizations and was named community affairs di-

rector for the **National Consumer Co-op Bank** in **Atlanta**.

3 Early political career

Before being elected to the **Atlanta City Council** in 1981, Lewis faced “years of criticism as a holier-than-thou publicity seeker who challenged city leaders on ethical matters”.^[11] In the context of the “war on drugs”, Lewis challenged **Julian Bond** to take a urine drug test during the 1986 Democratic runoff. The *Houston Chronicle* called it “perhaps the best-known example” of congressional candidates challenging their opponents to drug testing. The challenge could have served in Lewis’ favor in his upset win as “there were signs that it may have damaged Bond among older black voters concerned about drug abuse among blacks”.^[12]

Lewis first ran for elected office in 1977, when a vacancy occurred in **Georgia’s 5th congressional district**. A special election was called after President **Jimmy Carter** appointed incumbent U.S. Congressman **Andrew Young** to be U.S. ambassador to the **United Nations**. Lewis lost the race to **Atlanta City Councilman** and future U.S. Senator **Wyche Fowler**.

After his unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1977, Lewis was without a job and in debt from his campaign. He accepted a position with the **Carter administration** as associate director of **ACTION**, responsible for running the **VISTA** program, the **Retired Senior Volunteer Program**, and the **Foster Grandparent Program**. He held that job for two and a half years, resigning as the 1980 election approached.^[13] In 1981, Lewis was elected to the **Atlanta City Council**.

4 U.S. House of Representatives

4.1 Elections

4.1.1 1977

In January 1977, incumbent Democrat U.S. Congressman **Andrew Young**, of **Georgia’s 5th congressional district**, decided to resign in order to become the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. under President **Jimmy Carter**. In the March 1977 open primary, **Atlanta City Councilman Wyche Fowler, Jr.** ranked first with 40% of the vote, failing to reach the 50% threshold to win outright. Lewis ranked second with 29% of the vote.^[14] In the April election, Fowler defeated Lewis 62%–38%.^[15]

4.1.2 1986

After nine years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Fowler gave up the seat to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate. Lewis decided to run for the 5th

district again. In the August Democratic primary—the real contest in this heavily Democratic, black-majority district—State Representative **Julian Bond** ranked first with 47%, just three points shy of winning outright. Lewis earned 35% in second place.^[16] In the run-off, Lewis pulled an upset against Bond, defeating him 52%–48%.^[17] In the November general election, he defeated Republican **Portia Scott** 75%–25%.^[18]

4.1.3 1988–2014

John Lewis has been reelected 14 times. He has dropped below 70 percent of the vote only once. In 1994, he defeated Republican **Dale Dixon** by a 38-point margin, 69%–31%.^[19] He even ran unopposed in 1996 and from 2004 to 2008.

He was challenged in the Democratic primary just twice: in 1992 and 2008. In 1992, he defeated State Representative **Mable Thomas** 76%–24%.^[20] In 2008, Thomas decided to challenge Lewis again, as well as the Reverend **Markel Hutchins**. Lewis defeated Hutchins and Thomas 69%–16%–15%.^[21]

On May 5, 2014, Lewis delivered the keynote address at the commencement exercises for the **School of Visual Arts (SVA)**, urging the graduating artists to use their talents to fight injustice, saying, “You have a mandate to get out and disturb the order of things.”^[22] SVA honored Lewis with an **Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts**.^[23]

4.2 Tenure

4.2.1 Overview

Lewis represents **Georgia’s 5th Congressional District**, one of the most consistently Democratic districts in the nation. Since its formalization in 1845, the district has been represented by a non-Democrat for just 11 years. The last non-Democrat to represent the district was Republican **Fletcher Thompson**, who left office Jan. 3, 1973 after a six-year stint; prior to Thompson, Democrats had held the district since **James C. Freeman** relinquished the seat in 1875 after serving a single two-year term.

Lewis is one of the most liberal members of the House, and one of the most liberal congressmen ever to represent a district in the Deep South. He has been labeled a “far-left Democratic leader” by **GovTrack** and a “Hard-Core Liberal” by **Issues2000**.^{[24][25]} *The Washington Post* described Lewis in 1998 as “a fiercely partisan Democrat but ... also fiercely independent.”^[26] Lewis characterized himself as a strong and adamant liberal.^[26] *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* said Lewis was the “only former major civil rights leader who extended his fight for human rights and racial reconciliation to the halls of Congress”.^[11] *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* also said that to “those who know him, from U.S. senators to 20-something congressional aides”, he is called the “con-

science of Congress”.^[11] Lewis has cited former Florida Senator and Congressman **Claude Pepper**, a staunch liberal, as being the colleague that he has most admired.^[27] Lewis has spoken out in support of **gay rights** and **national health insurance**,^[26] and he has worked with the **Faith and Politics Institute** to advance their goals.^[28]

Lewis opposed the U.S. waging of the 1991 **Gulf War**,^[29] **NAFTA**,^[30] and the 2000 trade agreement with China that passed the House.^[31] Lewis opposed the **Clinton administration** on **NAFTA** and **welfare reform**.^[26] After welfare reform passed, Lewis was described as outraged; he said, “Where is the sense of decency? What does it profit a great nation to conquer the world, only to lose its soul?”^[32] In 1994, when Clinton was considering **invading Haiti**, Lewis, in contrast to the **Congressional Black Caucus** as a whole, opposed armed intervention.^[33] When Clinton did send troops to Haiti, Lewis called for **supporting the troops** and called the intervention a “mission of peace”.^[34] In 1998, when Clinton was considering a military strike against Iraq, Lewis said he would back the president if American forces were ordered into action.^[35] In 2001, three days after the **September 11 attacks**, Lewis voted to give Bush authority to retaliate in a vote that was 420–1; Lewis called it probably one of his toughest votes.^[28] In 2002, he sponsored the **Peace Tax Fund bill**, a conscientious objection to military taxation initiative that had been reintroduced yearly since 1972.^[36] Lewis was a “fierce partisan critic of President Bush” and the Iraq war.^[11] The **Associated Press** said he was “the first major House figure to suggest impeaching George W. Bush,” arguing that the president “deliberately, systematically violated the law” in authorizing the **National Security Agency** to conduct wiretaps without a warrant. Lewis said, “He is not King, he is president.”^[37]

Lewis draws on his historical involvement in the civil rights movement as part of his politics. He “makes an annual pilgrimage to Alabama to retrace the route he marched in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery – a route Lewis has since had declared part of the **Historic National Trails** program. That trip has become one of the hottest tickets in Washington among lawmakers, Republican and Democrat, eager to associate themselves with Lewis and the movement. ‘We don’t deliberately set out to win votes, but it’s very helpful,’ Lewis said of the trip”.^[11]

4.2.2 Charges about Tea Party using racial epithets

In March 2010, a report that Lewis and another black Congressman, **Andre Carson**, had been called nigger by Tea Party protesters outside the Capitol received media attention.^{[38][39]} Some conservative sources criticized the claim, saying that no video showed up to prove the charges, and the videotapes of the event that later surfaced seemed to in fact disprove them. *The New York Times* issued a correction in July 2010, acknowledging that there was no evidence of Tea Party members hurling racial epithets at Lewis and Carson. **Andrew Breitbart**

offered a \$100,000 reward for anyone who could provide audio or video evidence of one of these instances, but none surfaced.^[40]

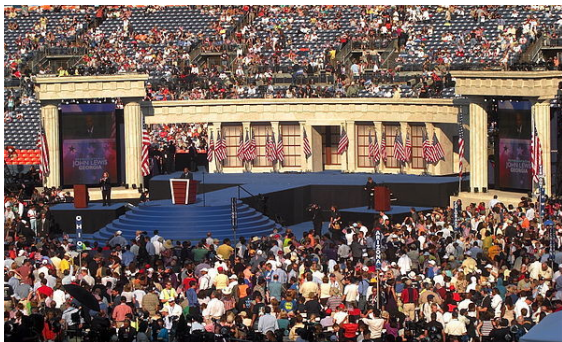
4.2.3 Protests

In March 2003, Lewis spoke to a crowd of 30,000 in Oregon during an anti-war protest before the start of the Iraq War.^[41] He was arrested in 2006^[42] and 2009 and outside the Sudan embassy in protest against the genocide in Darfur.^[43] He was one of eight U.S. Representatives, from six states, arrested while holding a sit-in near the west side of the U.S. Capitol building, to advocate for illegal immigration reform. The lawmakers' participation and subsequent arrest in the protest occurred despite the fact that the 2013 government shutdown was going on at the time.^[44]

4.2.4 Endorsements

When Lewis was asked at a news conference whether he would support Joe Lieberman for re-election to the Senate in 2006 after Lieberman's loss to Ned Lamont in the Democratic primary, he simply said that Lieberman "was a good man." That was taken to mean that he endorsed Lieberman in the race. Actually he had been invited to Connecticut by another member of Congress and had made no plan to formally endorse Lieberman.^[45] In the 2004 Presidential race, Lewis endorsed Senator John Kerry (Democrat).^[46] Lewis was one of 31 House members who voted not to count the electoral votes from Ohio in the 2004 presidential election.^[47]

4.2.5 2008 Presidential election



Lewis speaks during the final day of the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

At first, Lewis supported Hillary Rodham Clinton, endorsing her presidential campaign on October 12, 2007.^[48] On February 14, 2008, however, he announced he was considering withdrawing his support from Clinton and might instead cast his superdelegate vote for Barack Obama: "Something is happening in America and people

are prepared and ready to make that great leap."^[49] Ben Smith of Politico said that "it would be a seminal moment in the race if John Lewis were to switch sides."^[50]

On February 27, 2008, Lewis formally changed his support and endorsed Obama.^{[51][52]} After Obama clinched the Democratic nomination for president, Lewis said "If someone had told me this would be happening now, I would have told them they were crazy, out of their mind, they didn't know what they were talking about ... I just wish the others were around to see this day. ... To the people who were beaten, put in jail, were asked questions they could never answer to register to vote, it's amazing."^[53] Despite switching his support to Obama, Lewis' support of Clinton for several months led to criticism from his constituents. One of his challengers in the House primary election set up campaign headquarters inside the building that served as Obama's Georgia office.^[54]

In October 2008, Lewis issued a statement criticizing the campaign of John McCain and Sarah Palin and accusing them of "sowing the seeds of hatred and division" in a way that brought to mind the late Gov. George Wallace and "another destructive period" in American political history. McCain said he was "saddened" by the criticism from "a man I've always admired", and called on Obama to repudiate Lewis's statement. Obama responded to the statement, saying that he "does not believe that John McCain or his policy criticism is in any way comparable to George Wallace or his segregationist policies."^[55] Lewis later issued a follow-up statement clarifying that he had not compared McCain and Palin to Wallace himself, but rather that his earlier statement was a "reminder to all Americans that toxic language can lead to destructive behavior."^[56]

4.2.6 Occupy Atlanta meeting

In October 2011, a meeting of Occupy Atlanta participants did not reach consensus to allow Lewis to address the crowd. A video clip of protestors discussing the situation, and Lewis leaving without speaking, is published online.^{[57][58]} Lewis said that he was not perturbed by the incident, and noted that "These are different times."^[58]

4.2.7 Reflections on the Obama presidency and race relations

In an interview for the Griot, on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, Lewis told a reporter, "We have not yet created a truly multiracial democratic society in America. It's not post-racial." On an African American being elected president he said:^[59]

"If you ask me whether the election ... is the fulfillment of Dr. King's dream, I say, 'No, it's just a down payment.' There's still too many

people 50 years later, there's still too many people that are being left out and left behind.”

4.2.8 Election statistics

A special election was called in 1977 after President Jimmy Carter appointed incumbent U.S. Congressman Andrew Young to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. In the Democratic special primary, Lewis and fellow Atlanta City Councilman Wyche Fowler qualified for the run-off primary because no candidate reached the 50% threshold and they were the top two candidates.^[14] Fowler defeated Lewis 62%–38%.^[15] In 1986, when Fowler retired to run for the United States Senate, Lewis defeated fellow civil rights leader and State Senator Julian Bond in the run-off primary 52%–48%.^[17] This upset win^[12] was tantamount to election in the heavily Democratic, majority-black 5th District; Lewis won the 1986 general election with 75% of the vote.^[18] Lewis was the second African American to represent Georgia in Congress since Reconstruction. (Young was the first.) In 1988, he won re-election with 78% of the vote.^[60] In the 1990s, his lowest winning percentage was 69% in 1994. In 2010, he won re-election with 74% of the vote.^[61]

4.3 Committee assignments

- **Committee on Ways and Means**
 - Subcommittee on Oversight (Ranking member);
 - Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support.

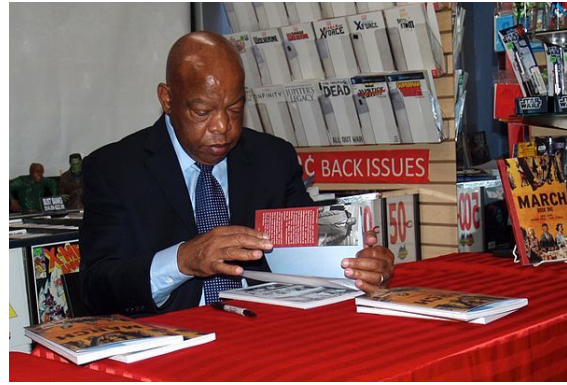
4.4 Caucus membership

- Congressional Black Caucus;
- Co-chair of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Caucus;
- Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation;
- Congressional Progressive Caucus;
- Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety.

Since 1991, Lewis has been senior chief deputy whip in the Democratic caucus. A December 2009 report on privately financed Congressional travel by *The New York Times* found Lewis to be recipient of the most trips since 2007, with a total of 40.^[62]

5 Biographies

Lewis's autobiography, *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* was published in 1999. His life is also



Lewis signing copies of *March Book One*, the first volume of his graphic novel autobiography, at Midtown Comics in Manhattan.

the subject of a 2002 book for young people, *John Lewis: From Freedom Rider to Congressman*.

In 2013, Lewis became the first member of Congress to write a graphic novel, *March: Book One*, the first in a planned autobiographical trilogy co-written with Andrew Aydin and drawn by Nate Powell.^[63] In an August 2014 interview, Lewis cited the influence of a 1958 comic book, *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Boycott*, on his decision to adapt his experience to the graphic novel format.^[64]

6 Personal life

Lewis met Lillian Miles at a New Year's Eve party hosted by Xernona Clayton. They married in 1968. Together, they had one son, named John-Miles. Lillian died on December 31, 2012.^[65]

Lewis is a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.^[66]

7 Honors



John Lewis addressing audience in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress on the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 2013



Lewis receives honorary degree from Brown University in 2012

Lewis is honored with the 1997 sculpture by Thornton Dial, *The Bridge*, at Ponce de Leon Avenue and Freedom Park, Atlanta. Two years later, in 1999, Lewis was awarded the Wallenberg Medal from the University of Michigan in recognition of his courageous lifelong commitment to the defense of civil and human rights. In that same year he received the Four Freedoms Award for the Freedom of Speech.^[67]

In 2001, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation awarded Lewis the Profile in Courage Award “for his extraordinary courage, leadership and commitment to civil rights.”^[68] It is a lifetime achievement award and has only been given out twice, John Lewis and William Winter (in 2008). The next year he was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP.^[69]

In 2006, he received the US Senator John Heinz Award for Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official, an award given out annually by Jefferson Awards.^[70] In September 2007, Lewis was awarded the Dole Leadership Prize from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.^[71]

Lewis was the only living speaker from the March on Washington who was present on the stage during the inauguration of Barack Obama. Obama signed a commemorative photograph for Lewis with the words, “Because of you, John. Barack Obama.”^[72]

On November 17, 2010, Lewis was awarded the First LBJ Liberty and Justice for All Award, given to him by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation,^[73] and the next year, Lewis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.^[74]

On January 6, 2016, it was announced that a future United States Navy underway replenishment oiler would be named USNS John Lewis.^[75]

7.1 Honorary academic degrees

- 2007: Honorary LL.D. degree from the University of Vermont
- 2012: Honorary LL.D. degrees from Brown University,^[76] Harvard University, and the University of Connecticut School of Law
- 2013: Honorary LL.D. degrees from Cleveland State University^[77] and Union College^[78]
- 2014: Honorary LL.D. degree from Emory University^[79]
- 2014: Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts.^[23]
- 2015: Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University.^[80]

8 Electoral history

9 Bibliography

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- *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* by John Lewis with Mike D’Orso, (Harvest Books: 1999) ISBN 0-15-600708-8. The U.S. Congressman tells of life in the trenches of the Civil Rights movement, the numerous arrests, sit-ins, and marches that led to breaking down the barriers of discrimination in the South during the 1950s and 1960s.
- *John Lewis in the Lead: A Story of the Civil Rights Movement* by Jim Haskins and Kathleen Benson, illustrated by Benny Andrews, (Lee & Low Books: 2006) ISBN 978-1-58430-250-6. A biography of John Lewis, one of the “Big Six” civil rights leaders of the 1960s, focusing on his involvement in Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, and the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.
- *John Lewis: From Freedom Rider to Congressman* by Christine M. Hill, (Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2002) ISBN 0-7660-1768-0. A biography of John Lewis written for juvenile readers.
- *Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Frontlines of the Civil Rights Movement* by Ann Bausum, (National Geographic Society, 2006) ISBN 0-7922-4173-8.

- *Across That Bridge* by John Lewis with Brenda Jones, (Hyperion: 2012) ISBN 978-1-4013-2411-7.
- *March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, (Top Shelf Productions: 2013) ISBN 978-1-60309-300-2.

10 In popular culture

Lewis is portrayed by Stephan James in the 2014 film *Selma*.

11 See also

- List of civil rights leaders

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13 Further reading

- Oral History Interview with John Lewis from Oral Histories of the American South, November 20, 1973
- *Booknotes* interview with Lewis on *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*, July 12, 1998
- “SNCC- People: John Lewis.”, Apr 11, 2011
- “Congressman John R Lewis.” www.achievement.org. Apr 11, 2011

14 External links

- Congressman John Lewis official U.S. House site
- John Lewis for Congress
- John Lewis at DMOZ
- Biography at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Profile at Project Vote Smart
- Financial information (federal office) at the Federal Election Commission
- Legislation sponsored at The Library of Congress
- John Lewis debates the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), June 11, 1996.
- Rep. Lewis on Congress, Gitmo, Afghan War and Charles Rangel – video interview by *Democracy Now!*, November 17, 2010
- Appearances on C-SPAN

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