



John Lewis' contribution to society was that he helped end segregation. For example, he led the Selma to Montgomery march on March 7, 1965. However it wasn't just any march, it was Bloody Sunday where John got hit in the head by a white police officer and fractured his skull. That didn't stop him from marching again 16 days later. John Lewis was physically hurt but his mindset didn't change. His dedication inspired others to march with him.



“You must be bold, brave, and courageous and find a way... to get in the way.”

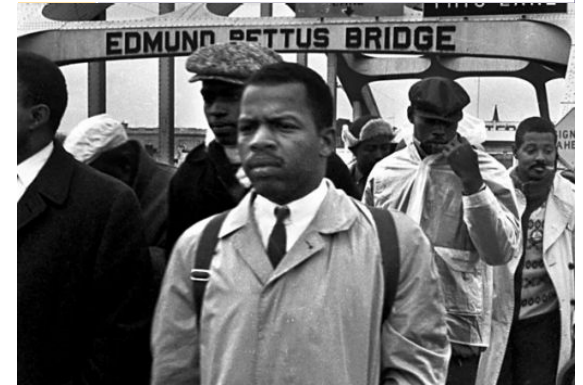


John Lewis inspired me by how strong and courageous he was as an activist. I support him for sticking up for all types of people so they can get treated fairly. He has played an important role in the history of the United States and is still today.



John Lewis

One of the few men alive today who marched on Selma and dedicated his life to fighting for civil rights.



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Early life

John Lewis was born in Troy, Alabama on February 21, 1940. His family lived on a farm and his parents were sharecroppers. John came from a large family with 6 brothers and 3 sisters. As a young boy, John wanted to be a preacher when he grew up. He loved reading and going to the library. He was a good student and went to college at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. While he was a student, John was asked to join nonviolence workshops. John followed these nonviolence practices for the rest of his life.



"MLK, Jr. taught me how to say no to segregation, and I can hear him saying now... when you straighten up your back, no man can ride you. He said stand up straight and say no to racial discrimination."

Milestones and Accomplishments

1959-1960 - Organizes student sit-ins in Nashville

May 1961 - Volunteers as a Freedom Rider, in protest of bus segregation laws

August 28, 1963 - Keynote speaker at the march on Washington

March 7, 1965 - Helps organize a voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery and is among 600 demonstrators attacked by police.

March 21-25, 1965 - Joins over 3,000 demonstrators marching from Selma to Montgomery, this time under the protection of federal troops. The size of the group reaches 25,000 by the time they reach Montgomery.

1977-1980 - Associate Director of ACTION, a federal volunteer agency. Appointed by President Jimmy Carter.

1987-present - Serves in the US House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th District.

February 15, 2011 - President Obama awards Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

August 2013 - Top Shelf Productions releases "March: Book One." This is the first graphic novel written by Lewis and Andrew Aydin and illustrated by Nate Powell.

March 6-7, 2015 - Lewis returns to Selma, Alabama, on the 50th anniversary of the beatings he, and dozens of others, suffered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965.

June 22, 2016 - Lewis leads a sit-in on the House floor to protest gun control and try to push a vote preventing people on the terrorist watch list from buying guns.