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House of Representatives

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS OF GEORGIA

HON. JODY B. HICE
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2020

Mr. HICE of Georgia. There is no question that all of us who served with John Lewis mourn the passing of this towering figure who dedicated so much of his life to fighting for freedom and equality. A son of Alabama sharecroppers, John Lewis demonstrated that, in America, a single man – even one from the humblest of origins – can influence the course of history.

Rising to a major leadership role in the civil rights movement, Lewis worked hand-in-hand with Martin Luther King Jr. and so many other heroes who sacrificed their lives to ensure that all Americans of all races may live in liberty. Their cause was rooted in truth and peace. He wrote: “Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.”

Lewis knew that it is right and necessary to fight to create a better America and confront the sins of society --- but it must be done peacefully and through nonviolent means... or else we sow the seeds for further sin and future discord.

I deeply respected John Lewis for his courage and dedication, and I always counted him as a friend. Our institution will be a poorer and less vibrant place in his absence. I thank my colleagues for coming together this evening to mark the passing of this great Georgian and civil rights icon. My wife Dee Dee and I continue to pray for the Lewis family. Again, I thank all my colleagues for joining tonight.
