



Congressman John Lewis (1940-2020)

The death of John Lewis, US Civil Rights icon and US Congressman, marks an historic turning point in the civic and religious life of the United States. Lewis was a close friend and ally of Martin Luther King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. He later became the moral conscience of the US Congress as he led the way on many social justice issues such as voting rights, fair housing, and opposition to all forms of racism and human rights violations - such as the immigration policies of the present US administration. He was the youngest civil rights leader to speak at the March on Washington in August of 1963. He often put his own life in danger to move forward the movement for equality of all citizens in the nation. He opposed many of the policies of the Trump administration because he felt it was taking the US back to an earlier era marked by racism, segregation, and economic injustice.

John Lewis will be remembered as an embodiment of the prophetic religious tradition of the monotheistic faiths that have inspired the movement toward racial equality. He stands in contrast to those political and religious leaders who have been willing to compromise their basic ethical principles to curry favor with the present administration, which has frequently violated the principles for which so many civil rights activists, past and present, have fought.

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