

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Butler,  
Jackson (11th), Jordan, Barnett, Blount

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 588

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PAYING  
2 TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ROBERT LEWIS, LONGTIME UNITED  
3 STATES CONGRESSMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE, AND EXTENDING THE  
4 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we note the passing of  
6 John Robert Lewis, United States Representative and civil rights  
7 icon, on July 17, 2020, at the age of 80; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman John Robert Lewis was born on February  
9 21, 1940, outside of Troy, Alabama, to parents, Eddie and Willie  
10 Mae Lewis. He grew up on a farm in a family of sharecroppers and  
11 attended segregated public schools in Pike County, Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, John Lewis earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and  
13 Philosophy at Fisk University. While there, he organized  
14 volunteers for sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters  
15 in Tennessee; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1961, John Lewis challenged segregation at  
17 interstate bus terminals throughout the South by participating in  
18 Freedom Rides, and he was beaten by angry mobs, harassed and  
19 jailed several times, including in Mississippi, for peacefully



20 confronting the injustice of Jim Crow laws. Today, his mugshot  
21 from his 1961 arrest in Jackson hangs in a gallery at the  
22 Mississippi Civil Rights Museum with those of other Freedom  
23 Riders; and

24 WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965, John Lewis helped lead over 600  
25 peaceful protestors across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma,  
26 Alabama, to demonstrate the need for voting rights for African  
27 Americans. He and other marchers were brutally attacked by law  
28 enforcement, and graphic photos and television coverage of the  
29 brutality helped to expedite the passage of the Voting Rights Act  
30 of 1965. That day became known as "Bloody Sunday"; and

31 WHEREAS, Congressman Lewis was elected to 17 terms in  
32 Congress, beginning in 1986, and continued to be a champion for  
33 civil rights throughout his tenure. His popular quote, "Get in  
34 trouble. Good trouble. Necessary trouble," has become a mantra  
35 for many to continue working toward eliminating racism; and

36 WHEREAS, in 2011, he was honored with the Presidential Medal  
37 of Freedom by President Barack Obama; and

38 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of  
39 Representative Lewis, who will be missed by all who were fortunate  
40 to have known him:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
43 we do hereby commend the life and pay tribute to the memory of  
44 civil rights activist and politician, John Robert Lewis, and



45 extend the sympathy of the Mississippi Legislature to his bereaved  
46 family.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
48 the surviving family of John Robert Lewis and made available to  
49 the Capitol Press Corps.

