

Coalition of United Progressives
CharMeck



We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level, and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

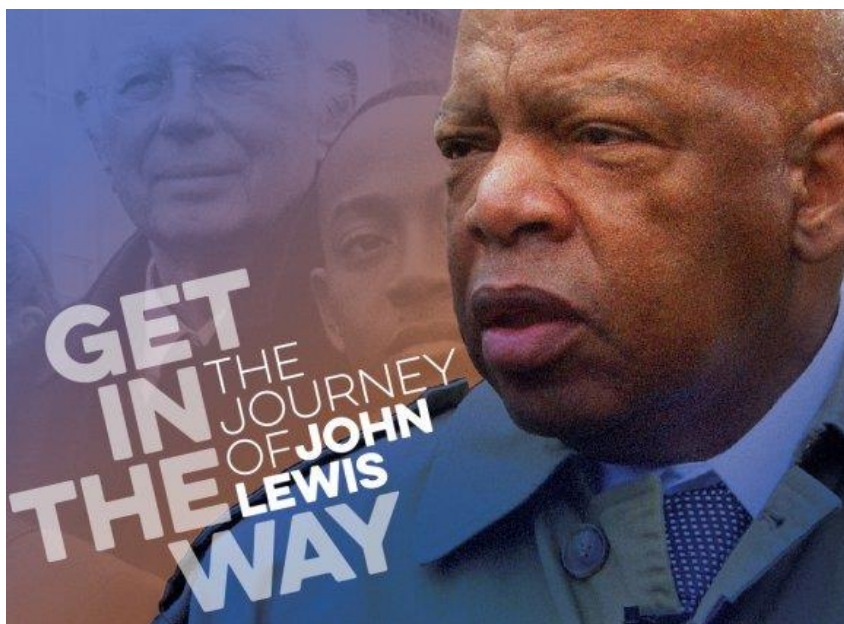


John Robert Lewis (born February 21, 1940)

U.S. Representative Georgia's 5th Congressional District
Presidential Medal of Honor

"John Lewis - Get in the Way" (2017)

By DonnaMarie Woodson



A film by Kathleen Dowdey, "John Lewis - Get in the Way" is the first biographical documentary about John Lewis, an inspiring portrait of one man cast into extraordinary times and his unhesitating dedication to seeking justice for the

marginalized and ignored. The film spans more than half a century, tracing Lewis' journey of courage, confrontations and hard-won triumphs.

The son of sharecroppers, John Lewis grew up in rural isolation, seemingly destined to a bleak, segregation-imposed future.

But his fate took a different turn when at the age of 15, he heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the radio. It was 1955, during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Lewis listened with rapt attention as the young preacher called for resistance to the harsh injustice of segregation. Notably, Dr. King exhorted those listening to fight not with weapons but with proven tools of nonviolence.



Lewis embraced Dr. King's spiritual call with a fervor that would determine the course of the rest of his life. A student activist in the vanguard of the Civil Rights Movement, Lewis was arrested and jailed for the first time during the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins in 1960. A front-line general during the 1961 Freedom Rides, he was repeatedly assaulted by angry, unrestrained mobs.

This inspiring documentary showcases just how integral John

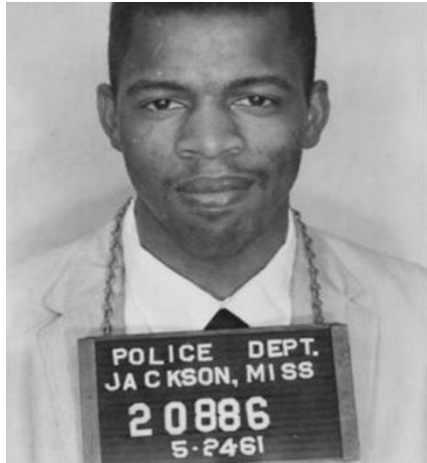


Lewis was in the movement. He was the youngest speaker at the historic 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. King delivered his legendary “I Have a Dream” speech. And in March 1965, Lewis led the Bloody Sunday march in Selma, where Alabama State Troopers attacked peaceful protesters with billy clubs, bullwhips and tear gas.



Their horrific actions were broadcast on nightly news reports into living rooms across America; eight months later, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law.

Through never-before-seen interviews shot over 20 years, Lewis reminds us with this gripping tale of his role in these history-making events.



Other key interviewees include civil rights activists Andrew Young, C.T. Vivian, Juanita Abernathy and Bernard Lafayette, plus Lewis' congressional colleagues Eleanor Holmes Norton, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, Emanuel Cleaver and Amory Houghton.

Lewis, now 76 years old, reminds us throughout the film to “Get in good trouble. Get in the Way.” A determined legislator who continues to make good trouble and get in the way, he is considered by many to be the conscience of Congress.

With equal measures of modesty and forcefulness, Lewis strives to persuade D.C. powerbrokers to hear the voices of the unheard. He fights for those suffering from discrimination, poverty, poor education, police brutality, inaccessible healthcare and limitations on voter rights.

Despite setbacks – and there have been many – John Lewis' eyes remain on the prize.



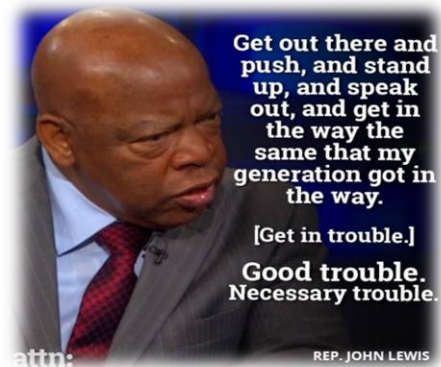
John Lewis is one of the most respected members of Congress. Since entering office, he has called for healthcare reform, measures to fight poverty and improvements in education.



Most importantly, he oversaw multiple renewals of the Voting Rights Act. When the Supreme Court struck down part of the law in 2013's *Shelby County v. Holder*, Lewis decried the decision as a "dagger into the heart" of voting rights.

Congressman Lewis has been awarded many honorary degrees and is the recipient of numerous awards from eminent national and international institutions, including the highest civilian honor, the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#).

Lewis was the only living speaker from the March on Washington and 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."



U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district since 1987, Lewis has reached out to a younger generation, helping to create a series of graphic novels about his work in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 2016, he won the National Book Award for the third installment in the series *March: Book Three*, which marks the first time a graphic novel has received the honor.

Congressman Lewis has been a fighter for justice his entire life and I stand in awe of his unwavering dedication to humanity and equal rights for all.

<http://www.pbs.org/program/john-lewis-get-in-the-way/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lewis_\(civil_rights_leader\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lewis_(civil_rights_leader))

<https://www.biography.com/people/john-lewis-21305903>

Editorial

What about American Political Violence?

By Tarik Kiley

August 22, 2017

President Donald Trump has spent a great deal of effort on the topic of terrorism. He attempted to institute a travel ban from countries which he implied supported Islamic terrorism. While it may be true that some terrorists are also Muslim, it cannot not be validated that all Muslims are terrorists.

This raises several questions: What about fighting all terrorism, whether it is foreign or domestic. What about American political violence?

What about the violence coming from the alt right—Neo Nazis and the KKK?



The far political right in America has a history of using political violence. Groups such as the KKK have never been non-violent, whether discussing lynching of Blacks, killing of Black leaders, or using the criminal justice system for racist purposes.



The Confederates, whose flag some racists fly, fought an open civil war against this country. Also, Adolph Hitler and the Nazis, whose flag some of the extremist fly, were also engaged in a war against countries which included the United States. It should be said that

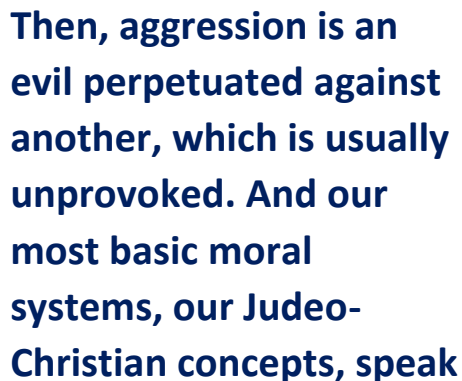
a war is by its very nature—violent.

Additionally, the type of political violence which is being discussed is not simply violence, per se. This discussion is about *aggression*.

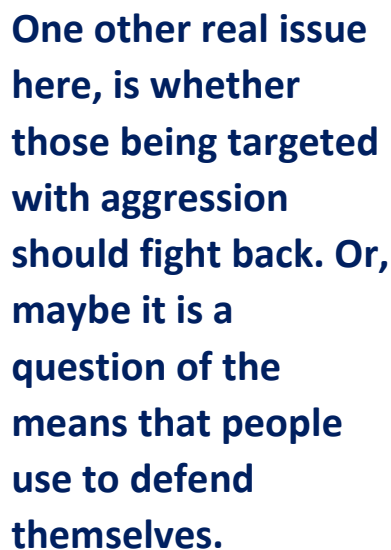
According to Merriam-Webster, aggression can be defined as the following:

Definition of aggression

1. a forceful action or procedure (such as an unprovoked attack) especially when intended to dominate or master.
2. the practice of making attacks or encroachments; especially: unprovoked violation by one country of the territorial integrity of another warned that any act of aggression could start a war.
3. hostile, injurious, or destructive behavior or outlook especially when caused by frustration Aggression is often the expression of pent-up rage.



Now, if aggression is evil, then surely racism is evil, because racism is by its very nature—aggressive. Then, since many are of the opinion, that Mr. Donald Trump, supports the alt-right, then perhaps President Trump is supporting evil? It would be very disappointing if Mr. Trump does not know right from wrong.



Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck



The issue here seems to be not only one of self-defense, but also one of civility. Can civil people be expected to tolerate intolerant persons?

When people live in a civil society, and face the specter of aggression, can the majority of civil society be expected to defend those being victimized?

In America, we supposedly believe that all people are created equal. If this is the case, then surely, in the name of civility, we the people, can be expected to defend the equality of others from the horrors of aggression which is terrorism—domestic or foreign.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/aggression>

http://inthesetimes.com/article/20240/left_political_violence_Virginia_Hodgkins_on_Scalise

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2016/12/hate_in_america_a_list_of_racism_bigotry_and_abuse_since_the_election.html

Announcements



A special thanks to those who made a GoFundMe donation to our
Coalition Cookout for a Cause!

Donald and Alyene Keen, Yvette Huet, Dorene Welch, and Betty
Gunz

Coalition of United Progressives Movie Night

“February One: Greensboro Four”

Wednesday, September 20th – 6:30 pm

Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church

3435 Nevin Rd

Charlotte, NC 28269

Lunch Counter Sit-Ins: 1960



The Original Four - 1960

- Feb. 1, 1960, the Greensboro Four sat at that whites-only lunch counter at the Woolworth Store in Greensboro, North Carolina
- Challenged unwritten rules of segregation
- four black youths — Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair Jr. and David Richmond, were freshmen on academic scholarships at N.C. A&T State University
- Inspired sit-ins across the south

Announcements



Check out the Coalition's new website at:

<https://coalitionofunitedprogressivescharmecck.wordpress.com/>



Charlotte Humans and GoodRoad CiderWorks

Blessings Bag Distribution Event

Friday, September 15 at 6:30 PM - 10:30 pm

117 Southside Dr. Charlotte, NC 28217

North Carolina Climate Solutions Coalition

"The Countdown to Climate Change"

Registration beginning at 1:30 pm

September 23rd from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Park Roads Baptist Church

3900 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209

Announcements



You Can Vote

EAST SIDE BLOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Canvassing Event

RSVP - <http://www.youcanvote.org/mecklenburg>

Saturday, September 02, 2017 - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Albemarle Road Recreation Center/Baseball field

Charlotte, NC

You Can Vote

Weekend of Action North Charlotte

RSVP - <http://www.youcanvote.org/mecklenburg>

Saturday, September 09, 2017 at 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Amelie's French Bakery,

Charlotte, NC

You Can Vote

Weekend of Action South Charlotte

RSVP - <http://www.youcanvote.org/mecklenburg>

Saturday, September 09, 2017 at 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Amelie's French Bakery,

Charlotte, NC

Announcements



Sen. Jeff Jackson Re-Election Kick Off

VanLandingham Estate
2010 The Plz, Charlotte 28205

Ticket Info - <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-8733316015238871296>

Thursday, September 7th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Young Democrats of North Carolina

Resilience Reception - Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, September 9 at 7 PM - 9 PM

Oak Room

200 East Bland St. Charlotte, NC 28203

Charlotte, NC 28203

Ticket Information:

<https://ydnc.nationbuilder.com/resilience17>



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings

Coalition Cookout for a Cause! Freedom Park - August 27, 2017



Gallery!



The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck