



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Alabama is paying tribute to the late Congressman John R. Lewis and over 600 men and women, who deserve special recognition during Jubilee, the 58th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, for violence they endured as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the Selma to Montgomery March on March 7, 1965; and

WHEREAS, the determination of these bold and courageous civil rights activists, under the leadership of Congressman Lewis and Hosea Williams, played a vital role in advancing voting rights for Black Americans. Their everlasting legacy urges all citizens to follow in their footsteps; and

WHEREAS, as a result of their bravery, on March 15, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced legislation to a joint session of Congress, outlawing discriminatory voting practices. The efforts and sacrifice of Congressman Lewis and the civil rights activists of the Selma to Montgomery marches led to the landmark passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, in his tireless fight for voting rights, Congressman Lewis sought to bridge the partisan divide, leading a delegation of members of Congress to honor the Civil Rights Movement martyrs at the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery and then on to Selma to mark the anniversary of Bloody Sunday; and

WHEREAS, we proudly say the names of the three martyr activists who died during the Selma to Montgomery marches, for whom justice was never served: Jimmie Lee Jackson, Viola Gregg Liuzzo and the Rev. James Reeb;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2023, as

Civil Rights Martyr Day

in the state of Alabama



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1st day of March 2023.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor