



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, John Lewis, born February 21, 1940 in Pike County, Alabama, was often referred to as the "Boy from Troy" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Lewis became one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, enduring violence by angry mobs, arrests and jail; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis is the youngest of the "Big Six" leaders that organized the 1963 March on Washington, speaking to the same enormous crowd that heard Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. He was the youngest speaker that day and is the last remaining living speaker today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis became nationally known during his prominent role in the Selma to Montgomery marches when he led over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the tragic events that would become known as "Bloody Sunday." After suffering a fractured skull, Mr. Lewis escaped and appeared before the television cameras, pleading to President Johnson to intervene in Alabama, before he was taken to the hospital. Even today, Lewis has visible scars on his head from that day; and

WHEREAS, today, he is still inspiring action to make our nation better by serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Lewis has received tremendous honors for his role in the Civil Rights Movement including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama in 2011, and the naming of a U.S. Navy oiler in acknowledgment of his courage and leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2018, as

John Lewis Day

in the State of Alabama and urge all citizens to join with us in honoring Congressman John Lewis for the significant impact on and contributions he has made to our state and our great nation.



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 30th day of January 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor