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VERTICAL  
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14 - 10'

EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE





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# BRIDGE

A PHOTO GALLERY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN LEWIS.

PHOTOS & CAPTIONS BY **RICHARD DUCREE**

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Lifelong civil rights activist, Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, Democratic Congressman representing Georgia's 5th District for 17 consecutive terms, and self-described "hard-core liberal" John Lewis lived a life of service to his country with few parallels in modern history. Born in Alabama the third of 10 children to rural sharecroppers, Lewis first became cognizant of racial segregation on a trip north, to New York, with his uncle when he was 11 years old. At age 17 he met Rosa Parks; at 18 he met Martin Luther King, Jr.; and by his early 20's he was an ordained Baptist minister. A founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Lewis had already been arrested two dozen







When Congressman Lewis returned to Selma for the 53rd Anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," he was accompanied by an emotional group of supporters. his passion and urgency shine through, on the same spot where he was beaten down in 1965.

**OPENING SPREAD page 84:** John Lewis' words about fearlessly standing for what is right were the canvas of his life. I found this image, taken in the darkness of a pandemic, particularly inspiring.



times when he was elected to lead that organization at the age of 23. He was the youngest of the “Big Six” civil rights leaders to head-up the March on Washington in 1963 (and the last speaker before MLK Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech), and he gained worldwide prominence in 1965 for his leadership in the first of three Selma-to-Montgomery marches across the Edmund Pettus Bridge – a day forever commemorated as “Bloody Sunday.” When Lewis and a group of 600 marchers stopped to pray at the end of the bridge, mounted police shot tear gas and attacked them with nightsticks, fracturing Lewis’ skull and leaving scars he would bear for the rest of his long, productive life.





**LEFT:** John Lewis, who wrote to MLK, Jr. when he was a teenager, was always a champion of young people. Even in his final days, he urged the next generation to “lay down the heavy burdens of hate” and seek a “peace that will triumph over violence, aggression and war.” Lewis met 10-year-old Tybre Faw outside a Selma church in 2018, a friendship that culminated with Tybre reading Congressman Lewis’ favorite poem at his Atlanta memorial service.





**Atlanta-based Local 600 Unit Still Photographer Richard DuCree** has been photographing Lewis for the last decade, documenting events like the various anniversaries of Bloody Sunday, and most recently, the Congressman's final journey, where his casket retraced the same route from Selma to Montgomery before subsequent burial in Atlanta. Lewis always pledged to engage in "good trouble, necessary trouble" in order to achieve social change, and this photo essay bears witness to one of the most remarkable "troublemakers" the world has ever seen.





This was taken on election night, at the headquarters of Georgia Congresswoman Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman from a major party in the U.S. to run for a governor's seat. John was a loyal friend and champion of Abrams, who, that same year, founded Fair Fight Action to combat voter suppression.



This image from John's memorial, of a black policeman in final salute, represents a contrast to the historical memory of him being beaten by white officers in 1965. Our nation has changed in the last five decades, even if there's still a long way to go.







Selma, AL was just one of the many locations where John's casket laid in state. Troy University (which denied him admission due to segregation), the nation's Capitol Rotunda, Montgomery, AL, and finally Atlanta were the others.





Most of the photographers were at the top of the bridge, so I positioned myself down near the spot on the bridge where John was assaulted. The rose petals symbolize the blood spilled by the marchers on that infamous Sunday.





VERTICAL  
CLEARANCE  
14'-10"


BRIDGE

EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

The legacy of  
**JOHN LEWIS**  
VIP  
2/21/140 - 11/17/20







"I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete."

*John Lewis*



A mural that went up on John's home district in Atlanta a few years ago, and the many tributes at its base just after he was laid to rest.