



City of Bellevue | Commendation

Whereas: John Lewis helped change the course of U.S. history by advocating for equity for all— first as a civil rights leader in the 1960s and later a congressman known as the “conscience of the Congress”; and

Whereas: Mr. Lewis devoted 63 years to public service and said that he had been in some kind of fight — for freedom, equality, basic human rights —for most of his life; and

Whereas: Mr. Lewis was beaten, spit upon and burned by cigarettes as he fought to end Jim Crow laws, challenging segregated restaurants, bathrooms, hotels, public parks and swimming pools; he was arrested 40 times and jailed on innumerable occasions; and

Whereas: At the age of 23, Congressman Lewis was the youngest keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington and modeled the significance of the youth voice in the civil rights movement; and

Whereas: Images of a trooper cracking Mr. Lewis’s skull at a march in Selma for voting rights led to support for the 1965 Voting Rights Act, signed into law by President Johnson; and

Whereas: Mr. Lewis was elected to Congress in 1986 from Georgia and continued the fight for freedom, equality and basic human rights; and

Whereas: In 2016, Mr. Lewis brought his message of civil rights to Bellevue, speaking with students from the city’s Youth Link program about his commitment to justice and non-violence for universal civil rights; and

Whereas: Values that Congressman John Lewis fought for, equality, access and opportunity for all, are at the core of the City of Bellevue’s diversity outreach efforts; and

Whereas: Weeks before his death from cancer on July 17, Mr. Lewis took part in his last protest in Washington D.C. in support of systemic change, continuing to inspire what he coined as “good trouble.”

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby commend:

U.S. Representative John Lewis

for his courageous efforts to bring recognition to injustice and his lifelong devotion to the ideals of equity, access and inclusion —pillars that guide the City of Bellevue. We mourn his loss.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue