

## House Resolution 293

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Representative John Lewis on his receipt of the Presidential  
2 Medal of Freedom and inviting him to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Representative John Lewis is one of the State of Georgia's most distinguished  
5 citizens, a dedicated public servant, and a renowned civil rights leader; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Lewis has earned this nation's highest civilian award, the  
7 Presidential Medal of Freedom, from the first African American president of the United  
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, the Medal of Freedom was established by President Harry Truman in 1945 to  
10 recognize civilians for their efforts during World War II and was later resumed by President  
11 John F. Kennedy as a way to bestow honor and recognition for distinguished non-military  
12 service to this country; and

13 WHEREAS, the son of Alabama sharecroppers, Representative Lewis was inspired as a  
14 teenager to join the civil rights movement and his non-violent actions and determination have  
15 made him an American icon; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Lewis organized and participated in lunch counter sit-ins,  
17 freedom rides to desegregate the interstate bus system, and marches and protests across the  
18 South in order to end racial segregation; and

19 WHEREAS, he nearly lost his life for the cause on "Bloody Sunday" when he and other  
20 marchers were beaten unconscious by law enforcement officers during a march for voting  
21 rights; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Lewis is the last surviving speaker of the massive 1963 March  
23 on Washington, which culminated at the Lincoln Memorial with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
24 "I Have a Dream" speech; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Lewis has brought honor and esteem to his family, the State of  
26 Georgia, and this nation through his award and his contributions to civil rights; and

27 WHEREAS, it is appropriately fitting and proper that this body recognize the tremendous  
28 impact Representative Lewis has had as a civil rights advocate and express its appreciation  
29 for his years of sacrifice and commitment.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body commend Representative John Lewis for his contributions to this  
32 nation, congratulate him on being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and invite  
33 him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be designated by  
34 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative John Lewis.