

Senate Resolution 234

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Williams of the 19th, Hooks of the 14th, Tate of the 38th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Representative John Lewis on his receipt of the Presidential
2 Medal of Freedom; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend Representative John Lewis for his contributions to this nation and congratulate him
31 on being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative John Lewis.