

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

**JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING UNITED STATES
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS**

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Robert Lewis was a beloved Georgia congressional representative, a political force and an ally for marginalized people everywhere; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis served as the United States Representative for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District for more than 3 decades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was considered a moral conscience of Congress because of his belief in a nonviolent fight for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis' passion for equal rights was backed by a long record of action that included dozens of arrests during protests against racial and social injustice; and

WHEREAS, as a follower and colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Lewis participated in lunch counter sit-ins, joined the Freedom Riders in challenging segregated buses and, at the age of 23, was a keynote speaker at the historic 1963 March on Washington; and

WHEREAS, at age 25, Mr. Lewis helped lead a march for voting rights on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where he and other marchers were met by heavily armed state and local police who attacked them with clubs, fracturing his skull; and

WHEREAS, images from that day, now known as "Bloody Sunday," shocked the nation and galvanized support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, after more than 50 years on the front lines of the civil rights movement, Mr. Lewis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the first African-American President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis is recognized as a great American statesman, patriot and champion of democracy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December 2019 and passed away July 17, 2020; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable John Robert Lewis, a great leader and a civil rights icon, and urge the citizens of the State to recognize the importance of preserving civil liberties for all.