



Pictured: The late EOC of Suffolk board member William Corey Huston with Rep. John Lewis at a National Community Action Foundation conference. Lewis was a fervent supporter of Community Action Agencies.

We mourn the loss of civil rights leader and Member of Congress, John Robert Lewis.

The son of sharecroppers, John Lewis became one of the leading figures in the civil rights movement in the 1960's. He was one of the original Freedom Riders, the youngest keynote speaker at the historic 1963 March on Washington, and helped lead a march in 1965 for voting rights on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where he and other marchers were brutally beaten by police. Lewis later served 33 years in the House of Representatives where he was an ardent supporter of Community Action Agencies such as the EOC of Suffolk, Inc. In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Lewis the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Nicknamed the "conscience of Congress," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* said Lewis was the "only former major civil rights leader who extended his fight for human rights and racial reconciliation to the halls of Congress."

We extend our deepest condolences to his son, John-Miles, and the rest of the Lewis family.