



Pillar of Strength and Wisdom Remembered

cause reflections on where we have been and where we are going as
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 JØBDVTUPTFSFGFDUPO FXT was a pillar of strength and wisdom
 not often encountered. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity
 to experience that wisdom.

For those of us who observed, and in some cases experienced,
 the challenge of taking on centuries of injustice in this nation, the
 wisdom and strength of John Lewis cannot be allowed to diminish.

On August 28,1963, a 24-year-old, John Lewis, spoke before the epic
 March on Washington, made famous by the Rev. Martin Luther King
 I I have a Dream I Lewis, a child of the south, used that
 moment on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to remind us of
 the police beatings, dog attacks, hosing and more taking place in
 the quest to achieve equality. On that day he said:

**"I appeal to all of you to get into this quest revolution that is
 sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city,
 every village and hamlet of this nation until the revolution of
 1776 is complete... They're talking about slow down and
 stop...We must say 'Wake up America! Wake up!' For we cannot,
 stop and we will not and cannot be patient."**

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Asheville North Carolina Council Approves Reparations for Black Residents

The City Council of Asheville, North Carolina, has unanimously
~~██████████~~
 discrimination, and denial of basic liberties to Black residents.
 ██████████
 programs designed to provide housing, business and career
 opportunities to Black residents.

Asheville is a city of 93,000 with a Black population reported to
 be 11.7%. Asheville is generally considered a liberal area,
 particularly when considering it is located in the western part
 ██████████
 members.

The vote took place during a lengthy Council meeting on July
 14. During the meeting there were extensive comments
 presented by Council members and the public. The comments
 from the public were for the most part supportive of the
 resolution. There were those who were opposed. The Citizen
 Times of Asheville reported the following:

*A few callers spoke against reparations, one linking it to a
 Venezuelan government plot and others saying Black Lives
 Matter was Marxist.*

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 important first step in starting to right hundreds of years of
 wrongs and to rep██████████



Asheville. Continued from page 1

Keith Young, one of the Black members of Council expressed that the discussion of reparations will not end with the vote. He stated: "We are seeking to embed systemic solutions into a systemic problem. This process begins and is perpetual, repeating, this process over and over again." Young further stated: "This work does not end, and will be adaptive, no matter what governing body holds office or who runs our city."

The resolution identifies eight specific actions to be taken by the City Council of the City of Asheville.

The first four consist of statements apologizing and making "amends" for Enslavement of Black People, segregating, and displacement of Black communities. It further calls on others who have benefited from "racial inequity", to apologize and "address systemic racism."

The fifth action calls on state and federal government to take similar actions.

The remaining three actions are related to addressing "the creation of generational wealth and to boost economic mobility and opportunity in the black Community."

The final action reads:(8) *seeks to establish within the next year, a new commission empowered to make short, medium and long term recommendations that will make significant progress toward repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic Racism.*

Continuing: *The report and the resulting budgetary and programmatic priorities may include but not be limited to increasing minority homeownership and access to other affordable housing, increasing minority business ownership and career opportunities, strategies to grow equity and generational wealth, closing the gaps in health care, education, employment and pay, neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice.*

A provision for reporting results completes the resolution.

Link to the resolution:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WKialVISWzu72mhasyy9SsIDbVGMSj5U/view>

Truth Matters NP is edited by Allen Swanson and Brian Haas. All articles are written by Allen Swanson unless otherwise indicated. Questions, comments or suggestions should be directed to truthmattersnp@gmail.com. More information may be found at <https://lookingleftnj.com>

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



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"When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children will ask us. 'What did you do? What did you say?'"

It is appropriate to look at where we have come since Lewis' words in 1963, the shedding of his blood in 1965, his decades of service in Congress. Many have said we have come a long way in the struggle for equality. I unfortunately, can only partially agree.

The "revolution that is sweeping this nation," spoken of by Lewis on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, did not achieve his goal.

We have seen in Portland, Oregon unidentified, armed persons, dressed in camouflage uniforms, shooting tear gas, rubber and pepper bullets at protesters. These same unidentified people are handcuffing, escorting and driving protesters away in unmarked vehicles. Trump is planning on sending these same unidentified persons into other "Democrat cities" (his words), to control crime.

We continue to grapple with how to prevent continued images across this nation of black citizens being strangled and gunned down over and over.

The fight for voting rights just seems to become more difficult every day.

The struggle to many of us born during or shortly after WWII does not look very different since that March on Washington in 1963. The rhetoric today of those supporting what they see as great strides in racial justice is no different than the rhetoric of the people of like mind in 1963.

I, for one, have not forgotten the words of John Lewis from 1963 or 2019. "cannot stop and will not and cannot be patient." I have an "obligation to say something, to do something."

Note: This piece represents my personal views. Allen Swanson