

Luncheon Keynote - Congressman John Lewis  
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference  
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010  
Transcript Video Recording #28  
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:20):

Hello. Uh, we are about to begin the program, this evenings pro this afternoons program. And, um, As we first want to Thank the Reverend Hoff for again, allowing us to Use his facilities, as you can see these, uh, wonderful facilities. And I'd like to, um, at this time, take a, make a special welcome to the third grade class of Civica school in Oakland, California that are right here. We, we want to ensure that we have people here for the next 50 years and we're making sure we do that right or not. We're doing it the right way. Um, As the, uh, attorney general makes his way up. Okay. Now we've had a moment of cameras. Let's let's move it. Let's move it. Okay. Okay. Please be seated At this time. I'd like to, uh, invite, um, Reverend hor to bring to us an opening prayer, Uh, so that we can begin this afternoon. Pro Good afternoon Trust. You've had a, a blessed day here at first Baptist church. Amen. Wonderful. We're just so happy to have you here in the house and to celebrate with you 50 years of struggle, achievement and victory, and know that we anticipate and by faith claim 50 more. Amen.

Speaker 2 (04:10):

Amen.

Speaker 1 (04:11):

Yeah. I'm gonna ask you to stand and for this opening prayer and, uh, while I do recognize your other traditions, you are in the Baptist church. And so I'm gonna pray a Baptist prayer if that's right. <laugh>

Speaker 1 (04:29):

So let us bow and prayer. Dear Lord, we thank you for this day of fellowship learning, remembering, and also planning for the future. We thank you for the children and the youth. We thank you for the generations that have been represented. And we thank you for the glorious history of SNCC. And we thank you for the doors that were opened, the lives that have been changed and the nation that were shaken to the foundations because of these, your children, not given up to struggle, continue to bless Sam Lord and bless us as now, we shift for our present and future. And may we know that underneath of those everlasting arms, and you've not brought us thus far to abandon us, but you will see us through in Christ name. I pray and God speak. Amen. You may be seated. I now like to bring to the podium, Reverend David fors, but before he comes up, I'd like to say a few words. Reverend David Forbes, uh, was chair is the chairman of the host committee for the sixth, for the, uh, 50th anniversary conference. It was Reverend Forbes who got us shore university at no cost. And more importantly,

Speaker 1 (06:02):

It was Reverend Forbes assigned us max. So who is an absolute gem and genius who facilitated everything that we needed to have facilitated a at shore university, Reverend shore. I mean, Reverend Forbes is here today after losing his wife three days ago and he has soldiered on, he was there

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yesterday. He said would be here with us and he's here. And I'll ask him to come forward now to introduce John Lewis.

Speaker 2 (07:01):

Thank you.

Speaker 1 (07:03):

Before the presentation of the Congressman, I would ask Tanya Wiley to come forward and make a presentation. Good afternoon,

Speaker 2 (07:28):

Afternoon.

Speaker 1 (07:29):

What beautiful faces in the house today? You all give yourselves a round of applause. Again, my name is Tanya Wiley, and it's a pleasure to be with you this afternoon on behalf of the national council of Negro women and the YWCA. The beautiful roses that you see in front of the podium have been presented to SNCC in honor of three trailblazers, Dr. Dorothy height. And I might add, we should all continue to keep her in our thoughts and prayers, Ella baker, And marrying the club, the Thon For each of these leaders, a dozen roses have been placed. And in honor, of all of the leaders of the civil rights movement, may God continue to bless each every one of you as you enjoy the rest of this wonderful, wonderful celebration Attorney Charles Jones of Charlotte, if you'd stand, the two of us are the founding members of SNCC representing North Carolina. And we welcome the speaker today in that spirit,

Speaker 1 (09:23):

John Lewis is often call one of the most courageous persons. The civil rights movement ever produced. John Lewis was, has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties and building what he calls the beloved community in America. His dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles has warned him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the United States Congress. The speak of the house of representatives said Pelosi has called represented Lewis. The conscious of the us Congress and roll call magazine has said John Lewis is a genuine American hero and moral leader who commands widespread, uh, widespread respect in the chamber. He was born the son of Sheros on February 21st, 1940 outside Troy, Alabama. He grew up on his family's farm and attended segregated public schools in pike county, Alabama, as a young boy, he was inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery's boycott in the words of the, uh, late Reverend Martin Luther king, Jr, which he heard on radio broadcast.

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Speaker 1 (10:32):

In those pivotal moments, he made a decision to become a part of the civil rights movement ever since then, he has remained as a Vanguard of progressive social movements and the human rights struggle in the United States. As a student at FIS university, John Lewis organized sit in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee in 1961, he volunteered to participate in the freedom rides, which Shallen segregated at interstate bus terminals across the south Lewis risked his life on those rides. Many times by simply sitting in seats reserved for white patrons. He was also beaten severely by an angry mob by angry mobs and arrested by police for challenging the injustice of Jim Crow segregation in the south during a height of the movement from 1963 to 66, Lewis was named chairman of the student nonviolent coordinating committee, which he helped form. SNCC was largely responsible for organizing student activism in the movement, including sit-ins and other activities while still a young man.

Speaker 1 (11:34):

John Lewis became nationally recognized leader about 63. He was dub one of the big six leaders of the civil rights movement. The others were Whitney young, a a Philip Randolph Martin Luther king, Jr. James Farman, Roy Wilkins at the age of 23, he was an architect of and keynote speaker at the historic March in Washington, August 63 in 1964, John Lewis coordinated SNCC efforts to organize voter registration drives and community action programs. During the Mississippi freedom summer, the following year Lewis helped spearhead one of the most seminal moments of the civil rights movement. Jose we, another notable civil rights leader and John Lewis led over 600 peaceful, orderly protestors across the Edmund pets bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7th, 1965. They intended to March from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights. In the state of Alabama, the marches were attacked by Alabama state troopers in a brutal confrontation that became known as bloodies Sunday news broadcast and photograph, uh, photographs of revealing the senseless cruelty of the segregated south helped Hasen the passage of the voting rights act of 1965, despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks, serious injury.

Speaker 1 (12:54):

John Lewis remained a devoted a advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence after leaving SNCC in 1966, he continued his commitment to the civil rights movement as associate director field foundation and his participation in the Southern regions council voter registration program. Lewis went to become the director of the voter education project under his leadership, the voter education project transformed the nation's political climate by adding nearly 4 million minorities to the voter role. In 1981, he was elected to the Atlanta city council by serving on the council. He was an advocate for ethics and government and hood preservation. He was elected to Congress in November, 1986 and has served as us representative of Georgia's fifth congressional district. Since then, that district includes the anti city

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of Atlanta, Georgia, and parts of Fulton, DeKalb, and Clayton counties. He is senior chief deputy whip for the democratic party and leadership for the house, a member of the house ways and means committee, a member of its subcommittee, own income security, and family support and chairman of its subcommittee on oversight. Finally, John Lewis, ho a BA degree in religion and philosophy from fifth university and he is graduate of the American Baptist theological seminary, both in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been awarded over 50 honorary degrees from prestigious colleges and universities throughout the United state. And he comes to us today back to the scene of the crime of 1960,

Speaker 1 (14:31):

The founding of the student nonviolent coordinator committee. Once you put your hands together, as we welcome Congress

Speaker 2 (14:40):

Lewis,

Speaker 1 (15:02):

Thank you very much, David, My friend, my brother, For those kind words of introduction, Brother, pastor, Thank you for your hospitality. It was a beautiful place. Thank you for letting fewer the children of God come by just to get together one more time. It is good to be here in, In Raleigh. It was good to be here. One more time, Mr. Attorney general welcome Courtland and Karen and all of you, you know who you are, uh, that work to make this possible. Thank you. You know, I see so many of you, you know, I see so many of you and I'm a little charged up, but Bernice is that I see. I see you. Freedom singers. You're beautiful. I wish you could stand here. You're just absolutely beautiful. You're beautiful. You're handsome. Some of us have less hair. Some of us are gaining little weight. We are, we are the same people. The last time I visit Haw Was in 2005 David To give a commencement address. And I did not fail to mention the legacy. Oh sure. Defined place of the student nonviolent coordinating committee known as NIC Or spoke about Chairs or Snick,

Speaker 1 (16:58):

Marin Barry, Chuck, Mike, you Stoker carmic H rap brown, Phil Hutchman and other members of ick who used the power of peaceful activism to change this nation and to change our nation forever. As a member of Congress, I have to work with so many people for many different walks to life, with many different opinions. Some are conservatives, some are moderate, some are hearts, And there are a few dogs. Some are donkey And others are elephants. Some are blue dogs and others can be a horse of a completely different color. We had one liberal lounge that we missed a great deal because depend on him to get the pigeon of the Y in the Senate. I've seen a great deal in my 24 years in the house, even met a few turkeys on the floor of the house. In fact, I, I think it's important. Every part, a Turkey, at least

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once every year, Even a lane duck can impart a Turkey every now and then, But as a country board from rural Alabama, sometime I wonder What do all these lawyers, doctors, ministers, and governors, peace Corps, volunteers, law enforcement officers, and even researchers who become members of Congress.

Speaker 1 (18:50):

What do all these strange folks have in common? And sometime I wonder and think They really don't know a great deal. And I know they don't know much about raising chicken. Now some of you hear members of slick had never heard me tell the chicken story, right? And you don't want to hear today. Do you?

Speaker 2 (19:18):

I know you don't,

Speaker 1 (19:19):

You don't, but if you force me through, I tell Growing up in rural Alabama, 50 miles from Montgomery outside of Troy in 1944, when I was four years old. And I do remember when I was four, my father had saved \$300. And with the \$300, he bought 110 acres of land. My is still on today,

Speaker 2 (19:55):

Outside on this

Speaker 1 (20:00):

Lot of cotton, corn peanuts, hogs, cows, and chickens. If any of you come and visit my office in Washington, I, my office in Atlanta, the first thing your staff will offer you a be, well, some peanuts I don't need too many of those peanuts ate so many peanuts when I was growing up in rural Alabama. I just saw when, see it on peanuts. I really don't. Sometime I get on a flight and fly from Washington to Atlanta or Atlanta, back to Washington, and a fighter attendant tried to get me some peanuts. And I said, no, say I don't care for any peanut now. And the next thing is have of you maybe be a CocaCola Coca-Cola product because from Georgia, the Coca-Cola company provide all members of the Georgia delegation with an adequate supply, a Coca-Cola product. Uh <inaudible>. I may have a diet Coke, But on that long, we raised a lot of chickens and it was my responsibility to, to care for the chickens. And I fell in love with raising chickens, like no one else to raise chickens now. And you know anything about raising chicken? No, you don't. Some of you know about you don't fool me. You don't know anything about raising chicken?

Speaker 2 (21:23):

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Don't fool me.

Speaker 1 (21:24):

Don't play with me. You know, something about, uh, Kentucky fry Really? Or churches. Oh, BOGO, miss Gwin. Uh, another one or two. Uh, which one? Oh yeah. Popeye. Don't forget Popeye, but you really don't know anything about razor chicken. Let tell you what I had to do as a young boy growing up in rural, Alabama than the forties in the fifties and detective Fisher, a Martin with a pencil, place them under his set in hand and wait for three long weeks for the little chicks to have some of you smart. Mr. Chairman,

Speaker 1 (22:08):

Why do you mark this fresh egg with a pencil before you place them under the said hand? Well, from time to time, another hand to get on that same nest and there would be some more eggs and you had to be able to tear the fresh eggs from the eggs that were already under the set in hand. Do you follow me?

Okay. That's good. These, these look shit for a hatch. I fold set hand and I would cheat on these set hands. I would tip these little tricks and give them to another hand or put 'em in a box with Alann Raise on that own. Get the most fresh egg mark with a pencil place. Em, in this setting hand, encourage a sitting hand that still in that for another three weeks. And when I look back on the, not the right thing to do

Speaker 2 (22:50):

<laugh>

Speaker 1 (22:52):

It was not the moral thing to do.

Speaker 1 (22:55):

It was not the most loving thing to do. It was not the most nonviolent thing to do. It was not the most democratic thing to do. It was not the most SNIC thing to do. It was not just the right thing to do, but I was never quite able to say of \$18 and 98 cents to order the most inexpensive incubator, a hatch upend robot score. So I just kept cheating on your setting here <laugh> any you old enough to remember, especially those of you from the south and the Midwest. You remember the K really? You really do that, that big book, that heavy book that some people call it, the ordering book. Some people call it the wish book. I wish I had this. I wish I had that, but it just kept on wishing. But as a young child, I wanted to be a

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minister brother, pastor. So from time to time, they helping my brothers and sisters and my first cousins, we together all of our chickens together in the chicken yard

Speaker 2 (23:52):  
<laugh>

Speaker 1 (23:54):

And my brothers and sisters, and first cousins would line the outside of the chicken yard and the chickens and my brothers and sisters. And first cousins would make up the conation of the water. And I will start speaking of preaching. And when I look back on it, some of these chickens were by their hair. Some of these chicken would shake their head. They never quite said a man, But I am convinced that some of those chicken that I preached to during the forties and the fifties tended to listen to me much better than some of my colleagues listen to me today. In the,

Speaker 2 (24:29): As

Speaker 1 (24:29):

A matter, as a matter of fight, some of those shook were just a little more productive.

Speaker 2 (24:34):  
<laugh>

Speaker 1 (24:36):

Well, at least they, what else for story? My brothers and sister, my beloved. I want it to be here today. More than anything I just wanted to be here. I'm gonna try to keep from losing it. But as a citizen of this discre nation, as one who participated in this unbelievable movement, I want to be here to say, thank you, Thank you for all that you did To make us a better and a better place. I will never forget how you took me in this young Band for the boy from, and read me in your love And your tended care. You read me in your love for all humanity, your love of dreams, ideas, and change your love, our nation and the democratic process, and your willingness to take a stand for all human calling. Oftener visitors who come to my office. It was our men and women of the Nashville movement and local movement without the student nonviolent coordinating committee, without the vision and the leadership of Martin Luther king, Jr. I don't know where we would be today. I probably would be still down there. I outside of Troy preaching to those chicken

Speaker 1 (26:19):

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Growing up, I saw those signs that said white man. I saw those signs that said color men. I saw those signs that said, color women, white women, color waiting, and white weighted, and a young child. I taste the bitter of fruit of segregation and racial discrimination. I didn't like it. It was too hard and too bitter to swallow. I used to ask my parents, my grandparents, my great grandparents, My segregation part racial discrimination. And they would say, that's the way it is. Don't get in trouble. Don't get in the way. But one day I heard divorce on Martin Luther king Jr. On radio. He was talking about the discipline and philosophy of nonviolent. He was talking about the Montgomery busbar car and the do to ever committed the, that people to make a difference in our society. But I heard his voice, but I heard about Rosa parks. Oh, I felt like Rosa parks. I felt like Dr. King was talking directly to me. I knew then that it was possible to strike a blow legalize a and racial discrimination in 1956. At the age of 16, I was so inspired. It was some of my brothers and sisters and French cousins. We went down to the public library in the little town of Troy, Alabama, trying to get library cards, trying to check out some books. And we were told by the librarian

Speaker 1 (28:07):

That the library was so fights only and not for colors. I never went back to the PI county public library until July 5th, 1998 for book signing of about boat and hundreds of blacks and white citizens showed up. And you know what they did, they gave me a library. So many of us who are here today, Know the moment and hour when we were called to March, when we were called to stand up. When we were called to sit down to sit in and I, by singing, We were truly standing up. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for calling and starting Avi revolution in America. A revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. Thank you for showing that way. Elevator that brave and courageous soul, that wonderful spirit. How much money does she have? Julian bond, Chad, a 800 grant. Just some of you spend that in 180, but had just \$800.

Speaker 1 (29:32):

She had 800 from CLC and she brought 126 student delegates from 58 student movement centers in 12 different states came to shore 50 years ago to change the world. As we know it, I tell all the young people I meet at students who state didn't just wake up one day and say, we were going to March. Didn't wake up one day and say, we going to sit in. We studied, we prepared. We studied the philosophy and the discipline on, on violence. We listened to Jim laws. We learned from Jim foreman. We learned from Bob Moses. We learned from FA Lou Hamer. We were inspired by a militant and fi erratic of like ele baker. I know some of you don't like to say today, but Ella was fiery. She was militant. She radical. We need some more people like today.

Speaker 1 (30:51):

I was, I was in a wonderful professor speller and later in Boston, he was another, we were the leaders in the cause of justice. And we did it for young people can do so well. We got in the way we got into



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trouble, but it was good trouble. It was necessary trouble in our struggle, in our effort to speak true to power. We knew that ours were not a struggle against flesh and blood. Some people along the way realized our struggle was not against sheriff. Jim Clark, a governor Ross Barnette, a chief PRI or bull Conner or George Wallace, ours of the struggle against unjust of unjust laws, evil, customized, and despicable tradition. Ours were the shorter against the forces of hate and division. The forces of fear and INESS, the forces of discord and violence. So the words of gun Emerson, Andone through the preacher and, and teaching a fortune Martin Luther king join and Jim Lawson.

Speaker 1 (32:08):

We wrecked ourselves in the garment of truth. We put on the helmet of reconciliation with all the human calling. We put on the vest of moral courage, and we bound our feet with the, a gospel of peace. Then we picked up the shield of faith and strapped on the sword of the spirit. And we began to move. We sat in, we stood in, we marched the McComb in Greenwood and Jackson and hater marched through the heart of the Delta. Through the black of Alabama. We marched in CA north and Cambridge, Maryland. And we marched in Danville, Virginia. We even marched on March And one day with the spirit, God, us, we March we walk and we prayed from Selma across Alabama river. All the way to Montgomery Today, you should be, you should rejoice. It should be proud. Really. 50 years later, we became the troopers of the movement, a highly disciplined armor of peaceful warriors, working on the front lines of the struggle to liberate the soul of America and build a more perfect union. Some of you were on the freedom ride. Hank Thomas boy, back in 1961 Student at Howard, from St. Or he was only 19 years old.

Speaker 1 (33:50):

You could have died on that bus in Anton. That was burned. You didn't give up. You didn't give in, You didn't become bitter on hostile. You kept the faith. You kept your eyes on the prize. And today, Hank, I know, I know that you don't like to talk about it. You went to Vietnam, served a country, an unpopular war. He came back and now you are a very, very successful businessman. And you're doing very, very well. Thank you. Some of you help organize the freedom school in Mississippi, and I want to thank every brave soul, every brave soul like and white Students, professors, religious leaders are coming to Mississippi because in 1963, in 1964, the state of Mississippi had a black voting aids population, or more than 450,000 And only about 16,000 blacks to register to vote Lauren Kard and Bob Moses and Holl walk and get in trouble for, thank you. Thank you all for what you did. Some of you pull off your suits, your ties, your jackets, and you put on your coat roses. You identify with the indigenous population, Networking people in the farms, in the fields, right where they were in Arkansas, in Alabama and Mississippi and Georgia here in North Carolina and South Carolina. You told them they should become participants in the democratic.

Speaker 1 (35:58):

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Some of you smart young people is here

Speaker 2 (36:04):

Right here

Speaker 1 (36:05):

And Charlotte club and that group, and I I'm seen hosting, but was a pop. And there've been a long time. Some of you, small young people drill through like a bat outta hell. You really did. I know it. I couldn't drive down those days, But I rode with some of you. I really did. When we were pulled out of Atlanta And crossed into that Alabama, our heart would start beating just a little faster and seemed like the air became just a little warmer and put me left Alabama and went over to Mississippi. Seemed like it got really, really a hard Arm and hole and others. I want to thank you For driving those cars. We were tramping by horses beating with bull pits and night sticks. We were arrested on Trump up charges, left beating and bloody in Montgomery in Birmingham and Selma in America, Georgia, but we never gave up. We never gave in. We never gave out on June 20, the first, 1964 with a dog. I sad Dave for the movement We lost and Goodman Mickey Schriener and James string. Oh, I said these three young men, These three young brothers Didn't die in middle east.

Speaker 1 (37:54):

They didn't die in Eastern Europe.

Speaker 2 (37:59):

They

Speaker 1 (37:59):

Didn't die in Africa. It didn't die in central south America. They died right here in all country,

Speaker 2 (38:09):

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Trying

Speaker 1 (38:09):

To get all of our citizens to become participants in the democratic process. And as we, we be here, we must never forget them. And so many others,

Speaker 2 (38:33):

They, they,

Speaker 1 (38:34):

They must be looked

Speaker 2 (38:35):

Upon

Speaker 1 (38:38):

As the fathers of the modern America as a group of us in the Congress, trying to get the poster service to an issue of stamp and their honor designed by Danny line. We lost Robert Lee, Jimmy Lee, Jackson, volu, and Reverend James Reed. We cried, we mourned, we buried our dead, but we kept coming T through all. We became a band, her brothers and sisters and Jim foreman. Was there a circus of trust? Try by far and bound in a single spirit. Even today. Right now I can hear BES Reagan of saying with a circle, be a unbroken Or someone might say, Lord, we've been in the storm so long. We've been in the storm so long. Give a little time to pray. Now someone may start saying all water. You can never jealous. All segregation is about the fall. Others singing keeps your eyes on the pride. Hold on, hold on. I wish I can sing. <laugh> another singing we should overcome, but God Carol won freedom singers. Thank you for carrying the message to America through music. Thank you, Harry Belafonte for singing, Harry, thank you for hearing the courage to raise some money To support, not just Dr. King and S SCLC, but to support Nick and take team of us on a to Africa, including Julian bond. Anden Lou Hamer and Don Harris and others. Thank you.

Speaker 1 (41:06):

I'm here to tell you, and I'm going to finish. Now. I'm gonna finish. I'm here to tell you today. If it wasn't not for Bob Moses in Mississippi, Where's Bob, If it was not Bob Moses and Mississippi leading the way be handsome in Arkansas, done harvest in America's, Georgia, BR LA in Alabama and Mississippi, Diane N in Nashville, SOS Norma in Selma and all of you someplace working. And it went for Julian bond and in

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communication department, its Nick James Bond, mark suck. I'm seeing a long time mark. It's good to see today. I don't know what happened to your boy.

Speaker 2 (41:59):

<laugh>

Speaker 1 (42:00):

Living someplace in Wilson, brown, All of the people in the community. You all got the word out in those wonderful SNIC photographer. My old roommate, Danny and lion and uh, Tom, Tom wa, right? Julian Thomas here, and Matt Haring. And, and, and you, you all know who you are. If not, if it not for all Obama, You must today or all you have accomplished. You brought those down and you will not see them except in a museum or book the men and women in a state of the new fathers of a new America, new mothers and new fathers of the new America. You have not just a nation, but the world from the shockers and change are hatred and justice. And I said, thank you because of you. This world has moved up just a little bit higher. But as I said back in 1963, Portland cars, When I spoke at the Marshall Washington on August 28th, 1963, I wish I, I could say, but I plant is there at the March, Washington

Speaker 2 (43:41):

<laugh> but the

Speaker 1 (43:46):

Only thing, but the only thing I will say, Corland

Speaker 2 (43:51):

Ours

Speaker 1 (43:52):

Is not a struggle for a day, a week of my a year, a lifetime. Ours is a struggle to build a little beloved community, a nation and a world society based on super justice that valued their dignity and the worth of every human being. We are lost a few of our dear and beloved friend. And some, I mentioned already like young Sam young in ske, Your brave soul in Mississippi, OU Haman Rub Darris Smith, Robinson.

Speaker 2 (44:35):

Amen.

Speaker 1 (44:40):

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But it's our duty. It is our responsibility. It is our calling to keep on keeping on. We are not there yet. Someone asked me now the day is the election of president Obama, the fulfillment of the dream. I said, no, it's a down payment, a down payment. It's time for us to continue to push. Now, you're not told to fight. You're not too old to push and pull it's in your blood. It's part of your DNA and you cannot let the other crop be out there with that tea and their bags and that sign you, you, you got, you got to get out there and push and organize and agitate and stand up. And

Speaker 2 (45:52):

I, I end,

Speaker 1 (45:55):

I, I move end with the story for my childhood that I like to tell you that I believe it symbols the way we must continue to keep our eyes on the prize. The race go, not to the swift, but to those who endure to the end. When I was born up I side of Troy, Alabama, 50 miles from Montgomery, I have an aunt am IVA live in what we call a shotgun house. I know some of you that worked in Alabama and Mississippi, you know what I'm talking about, but most of you never seen the shotgun house. You don't even know what I'm to My, in a shotgun house. She didn't have a lawn, a simple plain dirt yard. I look what I'm talking about. Cause of a born in a shotgun house. My from time to time, We'll go out into the woods and take branches from a dog tree and tie these benches together and make a broom. And she called that broom, the restroom. And she was sweeping stigma, very clean sometime two and three times a week. But it's special on a Friday or Saturday. For those to you who may not know what a shotgun house is. It's the old house one way in one way out.

Speaker 1 (47:23):

Sometime at night, you can look up to the holes in the field and the, to the holes in the 10 roofs and count to stars. When it rain, should we a bucket a and push the rain water From, to time walk out into the woods. As I said, And continue For those of you who may not know for the shotgun house here In a nonviolence sense of old house, one way in one way out, When you can bounce a basketball through the front door and it'll go straight out the fight door Or in the military sense, old house, one way in where you could find a shotgun to the front door and the bullets would go straight through the back door. My aunt lived in a shotgun house one Saturday afternoon. By this time of day, a few, my brother And unbelievable storm came up. The wind started blowing the thunder, rolling that light last And the rains start beating on the timber old shut. My mom, she, she thunder, this old house were going blow away. She got all us, the children together and told us to the wind, continued to blow the thunder, continue the road, the lightly continu to flash.

Speaker 1 (48:58):

Luncheon Keynote - Congressman John Lewis  
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference  
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010  
Transcript Video Recording #28  
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

And the rain continued to beat on the 10 roof of this old shotgun house. And we cried and we cried. We thought to the house, we going to blow away. And but one corner of this old house appeared to be from his foundation. My aunt had us to walk to that side, to try to hold the house down with our little body.

When the other side appeared to be lifted. She had us to walk to that side, to try to hold the house down with our little bodies. We bring children walking with the wind, but we never ever left the house. As part of this student nonviolent coordinating committee. That's what I struggle with all about. And we may continue to blow The continue, roll, the continue to flash and the may continue to be on our house. Call the house of the student nonviolent coordinating committee cause civil right, go to the house of voting, right? Go to the house of women rights, call the house like they, right. We all live in the same house. It doesn't matter. We're one, My friends, My beloved sisters in preface. They're stronger come. They win will blow,

Speaker 1 (50:25):

But don't give up. We live in not just American house. We live in the world house and we must look out for our sisters and brother around the world and create Adolph and farmer. And Heather used to said, maybe just maybe just maybe our four mothers and our forefathers all came to this great land in different ships. But we all in the same boat. Now we're one people. We are one family, the human family. You still have the power to stand up. In fact, Stand up, be a friend, be a good courage. You're going through the worst. You've been thrown in jail. You've been beaten. We've seen some of our colleagues shot and kill. What can anyone do to you? Now make some noise, make some noise, do it. You can do it. You must do it. We have a missing and a mandate for my brothers and sisters that are going on to stand up and run the race and not give up, sing the songs, pray prayer and March on. Thank you. Thank you.