

THERE ARE THOSE LIKE JOHN

(an ode to John Lewis)

by Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely

There are those **like John**
Whose **steps** we followed
Whose **voice** we listened to
Whose life so **mattered**.

There are those **like John** who rise up...**early**
Who stamp their mark on the world...**early**
Who join the struggle...**early**
Who show up...**always!**
Whose whole life is **never** late.

Who **overcome** the circumstance of their birth
Who in Sankofa-style **reach back**...even as they move forward.
This too was **John**.

Who **embraced** the least of us,
Who **lifted** the forgotten among us
Who **encouraged** the best in us.
Who **belonged** to all of us.
Whose pain was the pain of a **nation**.
Whose **life** had value,
Whose **voice** gave direction.
Who **stood** at the crossroads,
And **took** the road less traveled.
This too...**IS John**.

— Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely