



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Mourns Loss of Congressman John Lewis

Lewis, a civil rights icon, inspired millions of Americans from various backgrounds

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today issued the following statement from President Ricardo Lara on the passing of Georgia Congressman John Lewis:

“The American people have lost a giant in the passing of Congressman John Lewis. NALEO and its members stand alongside the millions of Americans Congressman Lewis inspired over the course of his extraordinary life and career.

“Congressman Lewis, who remained an ally of Latino Americans throughout his entire career, helped lead a generation of lawmakers to do the people’s business in the U.S. House of Representatives by overseeing efforts to renew the Voting Rights Act, serving as Chair the Subcommittee on Oversight on the Ways and Means Committee, and serving the American people as a stalwart moral compass through which to view justice and equity.

“Despite the division and turmoil that has ravaged our politics over the last few years, Congressman Lewis maintained a fortified outlook of hope for the future that will continue to inspire countless Americans for generations to come. As a civil rights icon, helping organize and lead the March on Washington in 1963, Lewis represented the epitome of American grit, courage, and progress. His lifetime of compassion and service has inspired countless Americans and paved the way for future generations of leadership.

“Congressman Lewis’s unapologetic and fierce opposition to family separation at the American border was a testament to his unequivocal support for immigrants and those who look to America as a refuge and beacon of new beginnings. His unwavering willingness to get into what he called “good trouble” will forever remind us of the self-evident truths and undeniable foundations of justice that he helped facilitate.

“Congressman Lewis’s exemplary leadership has strengthened organizations like NALEO in our work to serve our community. While paying tribute to California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, who received NALEO’s highest honor on March 11 of this year, Congressman Lewis honored his former colleague and NALEO founder and President Emeritus, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal, despite not being able to physically attend the gathering. His deep connection to our community and organization was a cherished and irreplaceable bond that our members admired and appreciated through the years.

“Our hearts are with his family, friends, colleagues, and constituents during this difficult time. He will be missed.”

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials.