

# MY HERO

By Albert S. Dandridge III

About the same time that the quintessential Philadelphia singing group, the “Blue Notes,” released one of their all-time greatest hits—and my favorite song—“My Hero” in 1960, John R. Lewis was beginning his civil rights journey. During that time, “the Boy from Troy” became a man steeled with unimaginable courage. Courage displayed from lunch counter sit-ins, to the March on Washington, to “Bloody Sunday.”

The song is a classic. The lead singer is a high tenor and the group is accompanied by a brilliant violin background. One of the lines in the song is “none can replace you.” None can replace John Lewis. Beaten, battered, and bruised, he was the irreplaceable icon of the Civil Rights Movement. He risked his life so that others may have one. The clear definition of a hero.

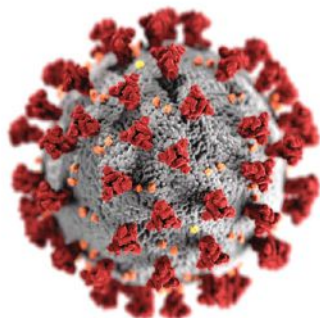
So, the song that I first heard and loved as a teenager came to full fruition in 2016, when I got to meet Congressman Lewis here in Philadelphia at the National Constitution Center. Not everyone gets to meet their hero before he/she passes on. Another line in the song is “long to embrace you.” I did, and I am forever grateful, for having had the opportunity to do so. ■

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## Have an Ethics Question?



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