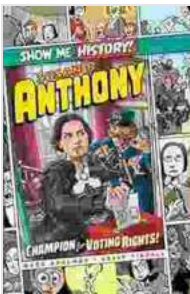


# Champion For Voting Rights: Show Me History

In the annals of American history, few names shine as brightly as that of John Lewis, a civil rights icon whose unwavering commitment to voting rights and social justice left an enduring legacy on the nation. His life was a testament to the power of nonviolent resistance, the importance of political participation, and the resilience of the human spirit.

## Early Life and Activism



### Susan B. Anthony: Champion for Voting Rights! (Show Me History!) by Mark Shulman

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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John Robert Lewis was born on February 21, 1940, in Troy, Alabama. Growing up in the Jim Crow South, he witnessed firsthand the corrosive effects of racial segregation and discrimination. Inspired by the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and the nonviolent philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Lewis joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960.

As a Freedom Rider, Lewis faced brutal violence and arrest while working to desegregate interstate travel. In 1965, he led the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which played a pivotal role in the passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year. The march and its aftermath became known as "Bloody Sunday" due to the unprovoked attacks by police and state troopers on peaceful protesters.

## **Congressional Career**



After graduating from American Baptist Theological Seminary, Lewis entered politics in 1981, winning a seat in the Atlanta City Council. In 1987, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Georgia's 5th congressional district for 33 years.

As a congressman, Lewis continued to advocate tirelessly for voting rights and other social justice causes. He co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and served as its chairman for 15 years. He also played a key role in the passage of legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Affordable Care Act.

## **Legacy and Honors**

John Lewis's legacy extends far beyond his political achievements. He became a revered elder statesman, serving as a mentor to younger generations of activists and inspiring countless Americans to stand up for what they believe in.

Lewis received numerous awards and accolades throughout his life, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the NAACP Spingarn Medal. He was also honored with the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize.

In 2016, Lewis opened the John Lewis Freedom Center in Atlanta, which tells the story of the civil rights movement and its ongoing struggle for equality.

Sadly, Lewis passed away on July 17, 2020, at the age of 80. His death was met with widespread mourning and tributes from around the world.



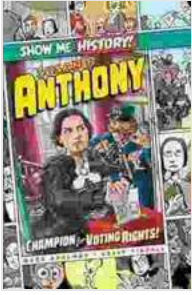
John Lewis was a true champion for voting rights and a towering figure in American history. His life and legacy serve as a constant reminder of the power of nonviolent resistance, the importance of political participation, and the enduring struggle for justice and equality.

As we continue to grapple with the challenges of racial injustice, voter suppression, and political polarization, let us draw inspiration from the life and work of John Lewis. May his unwavering commitment to justice guide us in our own journey towards a more equitable and just society.

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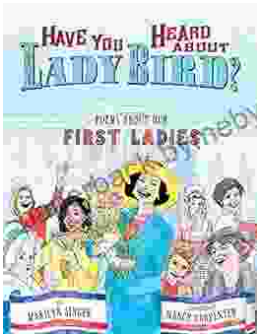


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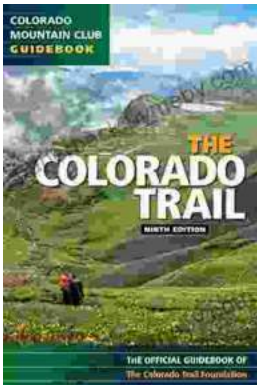
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