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A statement from East Lansing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Administrator Elaine Hardy (on behalf of the City of East Lansing) on the passing of Congressman John Robert Lewis:

"The City of East Lansing acknowledges the death of Congressman John Robert Lewis - a Civil Rights icon, 17-term U.S. Representative from Georgia, statesman and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient. We join the nation in remembering this great American hero and mourning the loss of this brave crusader for human rights.

In 2012, we were honored to host Congressman Lewis in our East Lansing-MSU community as part of the One Book, One Community program. Congressman Lewis' "March Book One" was the first graphic novel to be used as an instructional aide at a university, and MSU was the first university in the nation to incorporate it as part of its curriculum.

In November 2019, I was joined by City Manager George Lahanas, [ELPL - East Lansing Public Library](#) Director Kristin Shelley and fellow members of the [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan](#) in a delegation to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressman Lewis and invite him to keynote the 35th Annual MLK Day of Celebration in Lansing. Although the delegation was successful in their mission, in late December, the Congressman was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and was unable to return to the community.

John Lewis' compassion was palpable. You felt the full weight of it when he entered the room. His graciousness and authenticity humbled you, and there was no mistaking his commitment to non-violence and love of humanity - it was his essence. It radiated from his very being. I cannot imagine a world without our True North Star. I just know he walked across that bridge one Sunday and the world was never the same."

Timeline photos · Jul 18, 2020 · 🌐

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