

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2020

The Honorable David Ralston
Speaker of the House
Georgia House of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Speaker Ralston:

As you may be aware, the United States Congress first authorized in 1864 that every State shall provide two statues of citizens “illustrious for historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services” to be displayed in the United States Capitol. The State of Georgia last selected its two statues nearly a century ago, one of which is currently displayed in the United States Capitol Crypt directly beneath the Capitol rotunda (Crawford Long) and the other is in the National Statuary Hall (Alexander Hamilton Stephens).

Upon reflection, the undersigned Members of the United States Congress from the State of Georgia are writing to request that the General Assembly of Georgia consider enacting a resolution that would replace the statue of Alexander Hamilton Stephens, who was the Vice President of the Confederate States from 1861 to 1865 and subsequently served as the Governor of Georgia between 1882 and 1883, with a statue of our beloved colleague, friend, and hero United States Representative John Robert Lewis, who died on July 17, 2020.

There is no Georgian more worthy of this great honor than John Lewis, who symbolizes for us not only what Georgia once was but what it can and should be. He inspired millions of people in Georgia, the United States, and around the world with his bravery, his commitment to non-violent activism, his pursuit of equal justice and voting rights, and his unwavering belief in our democracy.

From the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where his skull was fractured by the police on the march to Montgomery for the right to vote, to the halls of the United States Congress where he cast his vote as the Representative from Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District for more than thirty-three years, John Lewis’ story is America’s story. He inspired us as the “conscience of the Congress” for his courage and sacrifice in making “good trouble” and his enduring humility. We have all been truly blessed to know, love and share the life and legacy of this extraordinary human being.

The world is a better place because John Lewis spent his life pursuing freedom, justice, opportunity, love and peace for all of humanity. It would be a worthy tribute to this great American for the State of Georgia to honor and to recognize his contributions by providing a statue to be placed in the National Statuary Hall so that he can continue to inspire future generations. We stand ready to provide you with any assistance or guidance that you may need.

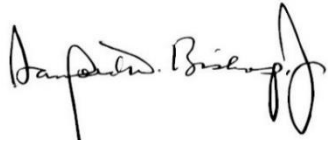
Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

The Honorable David Ralston

July 30, 2020

Page 2



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tom Graves
Member of Congress



David Perdue
United States Senator



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Brian P. Kemp
Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan