Have you ever heard about the March on Washington? During this march there were many speeches made, the most famous of which was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Among some of those other famous speeches was the speech of John Lewis. John Lewis was one of the “Big Six” activists. He helped plan the March on Washington itself. The march was on August 28, 1963. It was for jobs and freedom.

John Lewis was born and raised just outside of Troy, Alabama. He was born on February 21, 1940. John Lewis still lives today and is almost 79 years old. By the time he was about 23 years old he had been arrested 24 times, all for activism, which he had wanted to do since he was very young. He had been inspired to make things fair by the Montgomery bus boycott. By doing what he thought was right, he received a fracture in his skull, just for activism. Not only did he get hurt, but Lewis was arrested approximately 40 times.

John Lewis worked hard for civil rights. Lewis once said, “To those who have said ‘be patient and wait’ we must say that patience is a dirty and nasty word. We want our freedom and we want it now.” In 1957 he left Alabama to attend The American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. There he learned about non-violent protest, which helped him with all his future protests. When John Lewis worked for civil rights he didn’t hesitate. For instance Lewis help lead a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He was attacked by state troopers. That day, March 7, 1965 Lewis risked his life for his belief in civil rights. He also participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961. Lewis helped organize a ton of sittings at segregated lunch counters.

Since John Lewis wanted things done, and he wanted them done right, he decided to run for Congress in 1986. Soon after, he made a major accomplishment, John Lewis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Due to his hard work in Congress, Lewis received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama during 2010.

John Lewis once said this, “We have been too quiet for too long. There comes a time when you have to say something. You have to make a little noise. This is the time.” Lewis was a civil rights activist, he is a Congressman. John Lewis is a person worth celebrating, not just in February but every month of the year.