

Introduced by	<u>Hardin</u>
Motioned by	_____
Seconded by	_____
1st Reading	_____
2nd Reading	_____
Third Reading	_____
Under suspension	_____

## RESOLUTION 2020-68

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF JOHN ROBERT LEWIS



**WHEREAS**, John Robert Lewis, civil rights leader, sadly passed away July 17, 2020 at the age of 80; and

**WHEREAS**, he was born February 21, 1940, the third of ten children to the late Willie Mae (nee Carter) and Eddie Lewis in Troy, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, feeling the call to the ministry at the young age of five, he preached to his family's chickens on the farm. He experienced racism and segregation as a child when at the Troy Public Library; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of 15, he heard Martin Luther King Jr. on the radio for the first time and he closely followed King's Montgomery bus boycott. At the same age, he preached his first public sermon, met Rosa Parks at the age of 17, and met Martin Luther King Jr. at the age of 18, all of whom influenced his life greatly; and

**WHEREAS**, graduating from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN, he became an ordained Baptist minister. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Fisk University. He first coined the phrase, "good trouble, necessary trouble" to achieve change. He held to this sentiment his entire life. As Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form, the SNCC was largely responsible for organizing student activism in the Movement, including sit-ins and other nonviolent activities for voter and racial equality. He further attended nonviolent workshops held by Rev. James Lawson and Rev. Kelly Miller Smith at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church and encouraged other students in the discipline and philosophy of nonviolence; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, he ran for office and won the seat as Councilmember for Atlanta. Then in 1986, he won his election to Congress serving 17 terms. Representing Georgia's 5th District, he was one of the most respected, influential members of Congress. Upon entering office, he called for healthcare reform, measures to fight poverty and improvements in education. Most importantly, he oversaw multiple renewals of the Voting Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS**, his courage and tenacious adherence to the philosophy of reconciliation made him one of the greatest advocates of the civil rights movement; as a member of the original Freedom Riders, an advocate for voting rights which included assistant director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council adding nearly four million minority voters from 1973-1975, a leader and speaker at many marches including Selma to Montgomery

and Edmond Pettus Bridge; his willingness to be arrested and at times, treated unfairly, even beaten. “We were determined not to let any act of violence keep us from our goal. We knew our lives could be threatened, but we had made up our minds not to turn back.” While marching for freedom, he was quoted to say, “I never felt fear, not once.”; and

**WHEREAS**, having received many honorary academic degrees including Honorary Doctor of Laws, Honorary Doctor of Public Service, Honorary Doctorate and many more. He also received many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Liberty and Justice for All Award, and the United States Navy underway replenishment oiler renamed the USNS John Lewis; and

**WHEREAS**, he met his lifelong partner, Lillian Miles, at a New Year’s Eve party and the two were married in 1968. From the union they had one son: John-Miles Lewis. Lillian, however, passed from this life into the next on December 31, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, remaining steadfast in his peaceful fight for voter and social freedom and basic human rights, he became a voice for freedom as an author of many novels including the March trilogy, Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story, he won several literary awards including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, Robert F. Kennedy Book Award and in 2015, was on the New York Times and Washington Post bestseller list; and

**WHEREAS**, John Robert Lewis and his legacy will live on in his son, John Miles-Lewis, and a grateful nation; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** by the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, that:

**SECTION 1.** The Village Council and Mayor wish to express their most sincere condolences to the family of John Robert Lewis and hope the fond memories of him and all the changes he helped create, will comfort them in their loss.

**SECTION 2.** The Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of this resolution to the family of John Robert Lewis.

**SECTION 3.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnnie A. Warren, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

Presented to the

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – Gary V Gottschalk

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020-68 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

POSTING CERTIFICATE

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Resolution 2020-68 was duly posted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter in the Council Chambers and in not less than (5) of the most public places in the municipality as determined by the Council of the said Village.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_