

# AND THE GOOD TROUBLEMAKING GOES ON

I went to bed in tears last night.

They weren't tears of pain or shock or outrage. They were the tears you cry when the last of your grandparents "goes home." They're the tears of grief at the loss you've suffered, and the tears that say "It's your turn now." You have to tell the stories you learned at their knees, as you go on to make a difference in the lives of others as they made a difference in your life.

I'm still in tears this morning, because I've got lots of stories to tell.

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## THE GOOD TROUBLE OF JOHN LEWIS

Another  
lion has  
left the  
earth.  
John  
Lewis. And  
that damn  
bridge in  
Selma  
needs to



be immediately renamed for him, as has been discussed for years. Do it now. But finally abolishing the name and specter of the Edmund Pettus Bridge will not be enough. Structurally, the Pettus is not very large, it only has four piers, but it spans the arc of civil rights. The very civil rights still at issue today. John Lewis is the epitome of that arc.

From the New York Times:

Representative John Lewis, a son of sharecroppers and an apostle of nonviolence who was bloodied at Selma and across the Jim Crow South in the historic struggle for racial equality and who then carried a mantle of moral authority into Congress, died on Friday. He was 80.

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Mr. Lewis's personal history paralleled that of the civil rights movement. He was among the original 13 Freedom Riders, the Black and white activists who challenged segregated interstate travel in the South in 1961. He was a founder and early leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which coordinated lunch-counter sit-ins. He helped organize the March on Washington, where Dr. King was the main speaker, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Lewis led demonstrations against racially segregated restrooms, hotels, restaurants, public parks and swimming pools, and he rose up against other indignities of second-class citizenship. At nearly every turn he was beaten, spat upon or burned with cigarettes. He was tormented by white mobs and absorbed body blows from law enforcement.

This day was clearly coming, it was widely known Lewis was not well and in the throes of cancer. The death also comes as the racist cancer in society he fought so hard as a youth is center stage yet again. Not just in the abuse in the streets by police, not just in the Black Lives Matter movement, but in the despair of the poor and downtrodden. And, importantly, in favor of all citizens voting.

As Barack Obama said:

"Generations from now," Obama said when

awarding him a Medal of Freedom in 2011, “when parents teach their children what is meant by courage, the story of John Lewis will come to mind – an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now.”

The fierce urgency of now is every bit as critical as at any time in history.

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## **THREE THINGS: NUMBERS, HEARINGS AND RACIST CODE**

There’s always more than three things to address but here’s three we should look at more closely – Yesterday’s COVID-19 oversight hearing, the data debacle in Tulsa, and racist facial recognition.

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## **DESPITE RAPID GROWTH IN CIVIL RIGHTS TOURISM, MONTGOMERY REMAINS FIRMLY IN THE GRIP OF RACIST WHITE MEN**

Despite a population that is 61% black, Montgomery Alabama has five white men on its nine person City Council. That council failed

last night, mostly along racial lines, to enact an ordinance that would require masks to be worn in public, despite hospitals now being nearly overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients, most of whom are black.

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## **DEFENDANT BARR'S FLIP-FLOPS FINALLY ATTRACT PRESS ATTENTION**

Bill Barr is finally being called out on his lies. And that's happening even as a lawsuit could force Barr to make the same claims in court.

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## **THE WHY OF "DEFUND THE POLICE" [UPDATE]**

There are ample reasons why policing as we know it in this country needs to be deconstructed and replaced – in shorthand, defund the police. This is a dedicated post and thread.

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## **THREE THINGS: A FOR "ANTIFA", B FOR**

# **BRUTALITY, C FOR COMMIT (MURDER)**

Law enforcement in this country is screwed up. It doesn't help matters that many Americans have been conditioned to see a vaporware bugbear as a threat and not the police who fail to protect and serve the public.

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# **TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

U.S. military troops and resources have been deployed because Americans dared to exercise their First Amendment rights. This isn't like 1992 but more like 1989.

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# **THREE THINGS: LOADS OF BRICKS, WHITE CHICKS, MADE-UP SCHTICK**

So much manure, so few shovels. Here's three piles, have at it.

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# **105,746**

How convenient for Trump that the media has been under fire for two days and unable to hold him

accountable.