''gave a little blood.'' In fact, John gave so much more than that. He gave his country his all, and he was willing to give his life to make America a more perfect Union, but he never gave himself over to anger or allowed himself to harbor hatred in his heart for those who persecuted him.

In a true mark of his character, he famously forgave George Wallace, saying: ''. . . to do otherwise—to hate him—would only perpetuate the evil system we sought to destroy.''

John continued: ''Our ability to forgive serves a higher moral purpose in our society. Through genuine repentance and forgiveness, the soul of our Nation is redeemed.''

This, he said, was the ''very essence of the civil rights movement.''

Mr. Speaker, as I reflect on John's life, those words sum up why he was a great man and why we will always honor him.

It was truly the privilege of my life to call him my friend. We are a better country because of him. His legacy of change will last as long as America does. Everyone should strive to honor his incredible life. More importantly, we should all strive to learn from it.

But today, we mourn his loss, celebrate his life, and thank Almighty God for sending a great man who helped change a nation and serves as the highest example of courage, compassion, and moral character.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of our colleague, my friend, John Lewis.

Everything John Lewis did was in the service of justice—a courageous, compassionate man who gave everything, including his blood and his body, to the civil rights movement.

From the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to the floor of the House of Representatives, John was never afraid to put it on the line, everything, for what he believed in.

John was many things: a fighter, a leader, one of the ''Big Six,'' an HBCU graduate, a ''good trouble'' maker.

He was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and over 50 honorary degrees, from Portland State University in Oregon to Bates College in Maine, and yet he was always humble.

Many have called him a hero, a living legend, but most of us here just knew him as John, our colleague, our friend. It was an amazing privilege to serve in Congress with John Lewis.

John was not only a leader of the civil rights movement, he was a modern-day Founding Father. Because, while the Founding Fathers assured us that ''all men are created equal,'' it was the sweat and the blood and the sacrifice of people like Congressman John Robert Lewis that made that assurance true, that made our Nation more perfect and made our form of government turn towards justice.

John Lewis earned the respect of men, women, and little children, and he made our world and our community and our Nation much better than he found it.

My prayers are with his family and every seeker of justice who mourns him today.

Thank you, brother Lewis. Thank you.

Rest in peace.

VALLEY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Valley Grove School District of Venango County, Pennsylvania, for truly going above and beyond to connect with their students during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Due to coronavirus, we saw school doors close across the country. Many parents found themselves in unexpected homeschooling situations, and the teachers of Valley Grove School District rose to the occasion.

In an effort to connect with students during the quarantine, teachers and administrators created VGTV, a YouTube channel to share video lessons and updates with children and families.

Videos can range from a music class piano lesson to a banana bread tutorial from home economics or the early childhood education teachers reading storybooks.

Teachers from all grades have gotten involved to contribute something to VGTV. J.G. Resig, a high school teacher, said the project ''started out just as a morale boost to stay in contact with our students and let them know that we still care about them, even though we are stuck at home.''

Third grade teacher Julie Plumer has used her everyday surroundings to create informative videos for her students. For example, Ms. Plumer has created a variety of videos about baby chickens she had been raising to teach students about what it takes to raise and to care for animals.

Content varies, but the thing that each of these videos has in common are the dedicated educators behind the camera.

None of this work would be possible, however, without reliable broadband connectivity. As coronavirus has transitioned most classrooms to distance learning, the importance of broadband infrastructure has never been more apparent.

Connectivity is something that many of us take for granted. While there is broadband available in many areas of the United States, more than 21 million Americans, including more than 800,000 Pennsylvanians, lack access. It is imperative that we do what we can to address this critical digital divide.

The CARES Act provided $100 million for the ReConnect Pilot Program, which provides grants for the costs of broadband infrastructure development and improvement in rural areas. The CARES Act also provided $25 million for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband program.

These funds will certainly have an impact on distance learning in the age of coronavirus, but broadband connectivity is crucial regardless. We need to continue to make rural broadband and reliable broadband infrastructure a priority long after coronavirus is a thing of the past.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the dedicated educators of Valley Grove School District for going the extra mile to support their students during these extraordinary times.

They are hometown heroes.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart this morning to remember our colleague, John Lewis.

He was a hero to me. He was my friend. I am going to miss his smile, his soft voice that could quickly become a bellow. I will miss his hugs, his eternal optimism, and his hope that we would heed his advice and ''keep the faith.''

John had a long and special relationship with my family, with my grandmother in particular. They went through a lot together. They survived a lot. They witnessed a lot.

She asked me to read a letter here today in his memory. She writes:

Dear friends,

Our hearts are heavy, but also grateful for the gift of John Lewis, a man who devoted his life to making gentle the life of this world.

John's loving demeanor enveloped a mighty determination and passion for justice, equality, and the realization of his dream for the ''Beloved Community.''

A young man full of fire and ideals, qualities that he never lost, he was a trusted voice to my husband, Robert Kennedy, relied upon, first, as a student demonstrator and, later, as a campaign aide.

Activist, lawmaker, champion, he was also a teacher and a cherished friend.

He and Bobby learned from one another. They listened, they understood, they acted.

As a Freedom Rider, John was badly beaten at a bus stop in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1961. From the basement of the First Baptist Church where John, Martin Luther King Jr., and Ralph Abernathy sought refuge, they called Bobby asking for protection from a crowd of armed White supremacists surrounding the church. President Kennedy sent in the National Guard.

In Indianapolis, the night we lost Dr. King, John influenced Bobby's decision to ignore Mayor Lugar's plea to cancel a rally, instead seeking to comfort and seeking comfort from a devastated crowd of Black supporters.