

Congressman John Robert Lewis’ legacy marked by memorial plaque

By Loretta Tappan

The vital necessity of civil rights, human rights, and voting rights was stressed by Dr. Richard Hart and other speakers yesterday at ceremonies dedicating a plaque to Congressman John Robert Lewis’s life and legacy.

For the occasion, the Clarence Faulkner Community Center in Marion, Ind. welcomed the public for forty-five minutes of comments made by community leaders, thoughts shared by first place writers of the John Lewis essay contest, a call-to-action responsive reading, music, and remarks on peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and hope, which ended at 3:45 pm.

The descriptive plaque, installed on the east side of the community center building next to the Congressman John Lewis commemorative Maple tree planted September 19, 2020, was placed by board members of the Faulkner Community Center and community volunteers.

“I’m just thrilled to see that the tree is doing well,” Art Faulkner said.

“We love being a part of things that are positive in our community and recognizing Congressman John Lewis is one of those. He is an outstanding example of a life dedicated to civil rights and voting rights, and we have great joy in being able



Congressman John Robert Lewis Memorial Plaque

to push forward things that unify our community.”

The Commemoration Committee also launched an Essay Contest in honor of Congressman Lewis. Over 120 student essays were submitted online and judged online by committee members and volunteers.

The four divisional first-place writers shared their essays during the plaque dedication ceremony.

The largest group of writ-

ers wrote in the Grade 4-6 Division, which included Allen Elementary School and Justice Marshall School in Marion, Northview Elementary School in Gas City, and Eastbrook South Elementary School in Upland. The first-place winner in this division, Jaelynn Rose Aupperle, a fourth-grade student at Eastbrook South Elementary School in Upland, Ind., observed that “Lewis believed in: The

power of love, healing, and forgiveness.” Aupperle said, “John Lewis is inspiring to me because he would never give up.”

Essay writers from the Grades 7-8 Division were from Oak Hill Junior High School in Converse and a homeschooler. Claire Templin, an eighth-grade student at Oak Hill Junior High School in Gas City, Ind., shared a quote from John Lewis: “Get in good trouble,

necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.” Templin added, “Every one of us has something we think is worth fighting for. Instead of giving up on it the first time someone says no, we should continue to fight for what we believe in.”

In first place from the 9-12 Division, Kendall Scales, senior at Marion High School, urged everyone to get into good trouble.

“Don’t let anyone take the rights that you were born with away, always use your voice, make them listen, stand up for what you believe, never be afraid to fight, everyone’s vote matters, don’t let the words of others define you, and Black Lives Matter.”

From the College Division, Emily Dexter, senior at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind., observed that “I do not have to battle injustice on my own, and so I come to understand Lewis’ quote better. ‘Get the right people in power and do what you can to further justice where you are an enormous movement for justice now.’ I bow my head beneath the lawn’s magnolia tree and accept my part as one member of an enormous movement for justice.”

The Clarence Faulkner Community Center, named after Art Faulkner’s Uncle Clarence, serves the community throughout the year to promote weddings, graduation parties, celebrations, dedications, and community needs. “Things that bring our community together,” said Faulkner. “Right now, we are serving as COVID-19 testing center.”

The Clarence Faulkner Community Center is set to host its annual golf scramble at Arbor Trace Golf Course. For information, call Art Faulkner at 765-664-3720.

Grieve earns prize at National Scholastic Art competition

A Marion High School student recently earned a national award in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing competition.

Bayley Grieve, a senior at MHS earned a National Silver Key in the mixed media category at national level competition for her piece titled “Release”.

Two of Bayley’s pieces advanced to the national competition by earning the highest regional honor, a Gold Key: “Release” and her painting “Color Set Me Free”.

She also earned a Regional Silver Key for her mixed media work “Movement”, and a Regional Honorable Mention for her painting “Flourishing

Mind”.

Three other MHS students earned Regional Honorable Mention awards at the regional competition: Sianna Hobbs, senior, for her painting “mia”Chloe Phillips, freshman, for her digital art work “Influence”Alaina Wesling, sophomore, for her piece in the ceramics and glass category “Broken Skull Lamp”

All of these pieces were on display at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 311 East Main St., Fort Wayne, through April 10, and there are also two videos featuring the work and awards on the museum’s website: https://fwmoa.org/exhibition/2021_scholas

tic/.

All pieces that earned a Gold Key advanced to the national competition. According to the FWMoA website, the high caliber of entries into the Fort Wayne competition has propelled the region to be one of the top regions for national awards given in the past few years.

This is the eighth year in the last nine that Marion High School students have earned top awards in the competition. MHS students also earned honors in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. In 2018 and 2019, students earned an award at the national competition as well.



Marion Senior Bayley Grieve