



Atlanta University Center  
Robert W. Woodruff Library



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## **The AUC Woodruff Library Partners with the John and Lilian Miles Lewis Foundation to Preserve**

### *the Congressional Papers of John R. Lewis, a Transformative Force in Civil Rights History*

ATLANTA, GA (August 5, 2026)—The Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library (AUC Woodruff Library) and the John and Lilian Miles Lewis Foundation (JLMLF) proudly announce a partnership to preserve, digitize and make widely accessible, to current and future generations, the archival collection documenting the enduring legacy of Congressman John R. Lewis. This collaboration further strengthens the AUC Woodruff Library's position as a trusted, premier steward of civil rights history by expanding access to material that illuminate the life and legacy of one of the most influential activists and political figures in American history.

The *John R. Lewis Congressional Papers* reflect the lifelong commitment of Congressman John Lewis to justice, equality, and nonviolent change. Widely regarded as a central figure in the Civil Rights Movement, Lewis dedicated more than six decades to public service from his early leadership in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to his historic tenure as a U.S. Congressman representing Georgia's Fifth District. The collection captures this remarkable work through a range of materials, including speeches photographs, correspondence, Congressional records, legislative and committee work, campaign materials, and more.

"The AUC Woodruff Library is honored to engage in the preservation and digitization of this extraordinary collection," said Dr. Kimberley Bugg, CEO & Director, AUC Woodruff Library. "The Collection offers scholars, students, and the public an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the life and legacy of Congressman Lewis. His commitment to justice and education aligns with our mission to preserve and provide access to materials that document the Black experience and joins the related historical collections of Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection and the Joseph and Evelyn Lowery Collection."

Lewis's congressional papers document the inner workings of legislative strategy, coalition-building, and advocacy at the highest levels of government. These rich historical materials open new pathways for scholarship, enabling researchers to more fully examine the intersections of grassroots activism and federal policymaking that defined his career. Broad access to the collection will foster engagement and help deepen understanding of how civil and human rights legislation was shaped and advanced over time. The *John R. Lewis Congressional Papers* will

serve as a vital resource for students, scholars, and the public, not only preserving, but actively extending the impact of John Lewis's legacy, ensuring that his work continues to inspire and guide future generations committed to justice and equity.

The work to ensure the *John R. Lewis Congressional Papers* are preserved and digitized is led by the John and Lilian Miles Lewis Foundation. The work of describing and digitizing the collection is a part of a larger project, the Good Trouble Archives: The Life, Work and Legacy of John R. Lewis. Together, the AUC Woodruff Library will process and digitize the *John R. Lewis Congressional Papers*, and the JLMLF will develop public engagement and exhibitions to ensure broad access to the collection, both within Atlanta and globally.

The availability of this collection builds upon the AUC Woodruff Library's commitment to preserving the narratives of leaders whose work has shaped the nation and the world.

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### **About the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library**

Established in 1982, the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library is named in honor of the late Robert Winship Woodruff, a philanthropist and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. The library serves three historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) – Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, this state-of-the-art facility has become a leading repository of information resources and an innovator in the delivery of digital content.

The AUC Woodruff Library also houses the Archives Research Center, renowned for its extensive collection of materials related to the African American experience. This includes the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, as well as the Joseph Echols Lowery and Evelyn Gibson Lowery Collection. [www.auctr.edu](http://www.auctr.edu)

### **About the John and Lilian Miles Lewis Foundation**

The John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation (JLMLF) was established at the direction of Congressman Lewis shortly before his death in 2020 to carry on his and his wife's passion for purposeful living, civic engagement and building the "beloved community," and to inspire and support "good trouble." [www.johnandlillianmileslewisfoundation.org](http://www.johnandlillianmileslewisfoundation.org)

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