



**John Lewis** first heard Martin Luther King Jr. on the radio in 1955 at the age of 15. Lewis met Rosa Parks when he was 17, and met King for the first time when he was 18. As a student, Lewis was dedicated to the civil rights movement. He organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville and took part in many other civil rights activities as part of the Nashville Student Movement. In 1961, using his **freedoms of assembly and speech**, Lewis became one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, and later, the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. John Lewis represented Georgia in the House of Representatives from 1987 until 2020, often using his **freedom of speech** to stand against racism and bigotry.