



Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



Born in the projects... elected to Mayor!

PAST

Carl B. Stokes

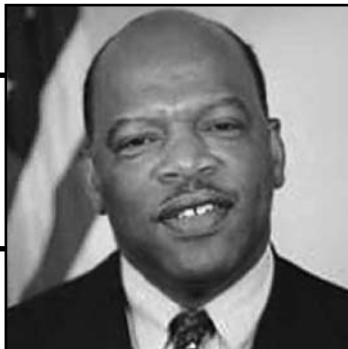
Born: June 21, 1927

Contribution: Politics



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Carl B. Stokes was born in the first federally funded housing project for the poor in Cleveland, Ohio - Outhwaite Homes. He joined the U.S. Army at age 18 and after his discharge, went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. He then graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1956. He was elected the first black Democrat to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1962. **In 1967, he ran for and won an election which made him the first African-American mayor of a large American city.** As mayor, Stokes opened city hall jobs to blacks and women. He served as mayor until 1971. After his mayoral administration, Stokes lectured to colleges around the country. In 1972, he became the first black anchorman in New York City when he took a job with television station WNBC-TV. Later, President Bill Clinton appointed him U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles. He was awarded 12 honorary degrees, numerous civic awards, was voted him the first black president-elect of the National League of Cities and represented the United States on numerous goodwill trips abroad by request of the White House. The US Federal Courthouse Tower in downtown Cleveland, completed in 2002, was named the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House Building in honor of him.



A Man With A Plan!

PRESENT

John Lewis

Born: February 21, 1940

Contribution: Politics



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John Lewis was born in Troy, Alabama the son of a sharecropper. Lewis was educated at the American Baptist Theological Seminary and at Fisk University, both in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1986, Lewis ran for Congress and defeated his opponents in the Democratic primary to become the 2nd African-American to represent Georgia in Congress since Reconstruction. Lewis has been re-elected nine times without serious opposition, often with over 70 percent of the vote. He has been unopposed for reelection since 2002. For many years, he has been on the powerful House Means and Ways Committee and is the ranking minority leader of its Subcommittee on Oversight. Besides being a successful politician, Lewis is an important leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. He was president of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and led the struggle to end segregation.

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?