

Acknowledgments

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An essential part of the research was interviewing a diverse group of about 250 individuals, including prominent figures like President Obama, President Clinton, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, all of whom shared personal anecdotes and memories of John Lewis. Their contributions, along with those of Lewis's family, colleagues, and friends, were crucial in enriching the narrative, particularly in areas where archival materials were either insufficient or absent. This diverse input helped the author paint a more detailed and nuanced picture of Lewis's extraordinary life. The unique perspectives from these influential individuals, combined with previously unavailable records, provided a deeper insight into the significance of John Lewis's legacy and the impact he made on the civil rights movement, reinforcing his role as a historical and moral leader.

The author also expresses gratitude to those who provided private materials and participated in interviews with Lewis, contributing to the research's richness. Archie Allen, who had tried to write a biography of Lewis in 1968, generously shared his extensive archive, adding historical context to the story. Furthermore, collaborations

with historians and academic institutions, including access to Henry Louis Gates's materials from the show *Finding Your Roots* and invaluable recordings from Danny Lyon and Sean Wilentz, added depth and accuracy to the research. The insights from these resources helped enhance the historical authenticity of the biography, offering a well-rounded perspective on Lewis's journey, values, and the broader civil rights struggle. These collaborations significantly strengthened the research and allowed for a more comprehensive exploration of Lewis's legacy in a way that honored his immense contributions.

Special mention is also given to the archivists and librarians at institutions like Rutgers University and the New York Public Library, whose expertise in organizing and providing access to relevant research materials proved indispensable. Their efforts ensured that critical documents and resources were available to the author during the writing process. Additionally, the contributions of various historians and journalists who provided scholarly input were instrumental in broadening the context of the narrative. Their diverse perspectives on the civil rights movement enriched the storytelling and offered a more multifaceted understanding of John Lewis's place within that pivotal chapter of American history.

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