



# Words of Encouragement from John Lewis

By John Lewis

*Editor's note: John Lewis, civil rights leader and congressman, sent this essay to The New York Times two days before his death, asking that it be published on the day of his funeral. We are reprinting his posthumous message, which appeared in The Times on Thursday, July 30, 2020.*

## Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language, and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and

feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland, and Breonna Taylor. He was fourteen when he was killed, and I was only fifteen years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters, and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas, and choke to death



the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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 Bid Date: August 20, 2020

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 The Distributed Generation Program will ensure that all participating locations can provide their own electrical power in the event of a utility grid disruption. This will include: automatic transfer switches, natural gas generators and enclosures with required foundations, connections to existing electrical services (both the utility side and facility side), remote access to the Distributed Generation equipment at all seven (7) participating locations, development and implementation of prescribed cyber security protocols, installation of a flywheel energy storage system at the Wayne Bus Maintenance Facility, installation of solar carport canopies, at the Wayne Bus Maintenance Facility, complete remediation and repurposing of the Newark Penn Station Old Boiler House, and modifications to the Newark Penn Station electrical system.

**Many bidding opportunities are available:** demolition, dumpsters, rebar, masonry, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, painting.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: [Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com](mailto:Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com) • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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**WP-0112 Replacement of Main Sewage Pump System at Coney Island WWTP Project**  
 NYC DEP Contract No: CI-119  
 Bid Date: August 6, 2020

**Description of Project:**  
 The CI-119 project consists of the replacement of the Main Sewage Pumps and other ancillary equipment and structures at the Coney Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Brooklyn, New York. Work includes demolition of six existing Main Sewage Pumps (MSPs), shafts, motors, drives, and piping, and replacement with vertical centrifugal dry pit pumps, 600 HP motors and eddy current drives, and vertical shaft; demolition and replacement of the MSP seal water system, actuated sluice gates, sump pump system; installation of a new Flood Recovery Pump system; demolition of the decommissioned chemical storage tanks, piping, pumps, and appurtenances in the chemical and dechlorination rooms; also structural, MPT, architectural, electrical, instrumentation and controls, HVAC and plumbing, and fire protection work to support the pump replacement.

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If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: [Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com](mailto:Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com) • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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**PPP Forgiveness—Important Concepts and Interim Final Rule Webinar**  
 Monday, August 3, 2020, 10:00 am–11:00 am  
 Online  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Small Business Development Center  
 Contact: Chuck Gilboy, 603-970-1307, [chuck.gilboy@unh.edu](mailto:chuck.gilboy@unh.edu)  
 Fee: Free; registration required

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application has been posted on the websites of the US Small Business Administration and the Department of the Treasury. We're waiting for final forgiveness guidance, but the application itself makes several important changes to how you calculate forgiveness that we'll cover. We'll also discuss the documents you should be tracking and collecting now as we wait for the final SBA rule. This webinar is presented by Chuck Gilboy, New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) business advisor. NH SBDC is the leading resource for business advising and education for small to medium businesses in the Granite State. Each year, three thousand small businesses in approximately two hundred New Hampshire communities benefit from NH SBDC advising and educational programs provided at no charge to New Hampshire enterprises.

**How to Leverage a Virtual Assistant in a Pandemic Webinar**  
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

**Online**  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, SCORE  
 Contact: Danielle Julia Cuomo, 800-634-0245, [help@score.org](mailto:help@score.org)  
 Fee: Free; registration required

A Virtual Assistant can be a valuable asset for any business, but especially when resources are scarce and access to funds is limited, such as during the current pandemic. Leveraging a VA can help you manage your time more effectively and allow you to focus on activities that translate faster to business development and growth. In this webinar, presented by the owner of Virtual Assist USA, Danielle Julia Cuomo, you'll learn how: outsourcing can save your business; to plan versus panic in times of uncertainty; you can afford a Virtual Assistant; to figure out what to delegate to a Virtual Assistant. SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, is dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow, and achieve their goals.

**How to Access the Woman-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program Repository Webinar**  
 Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm  
 Online  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, 404-331-0118, [patrice.dozier@sba.gov](mailto:patrice.dozier@sba.gov)  
 Fee: Free; registration required

Once you register, you will be sent the link for the webinar. Before you can participate in the women's contracting program, you must either use the SBA FREE online application or be third-party certified. Both methods require you to use the [certify.SBA.gov](http://certify.SBA.gov) website. Webinar access information will be forwarded via email.

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