



Photos by Joshua Franzos

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

When 2020 began, many of us in the U.S were expecting a consequential year because of the presidential election and the decennial census. What we did not expect was a global pandemic that would make routine activities such as going to work, getting food or taking children to child care fraught with previously unforeseen complications and health concerns. Add to this worldwide racial justice protests following the killings of unarmed Black people by police and vigilantes in this country, and 2020 has unleashed challenges on a scale not seen in decades.

In these uncertain times, it could be easy to lose hope. But we can be encouraged by some of the final words of John Lewis, the late civil rights leader and U.S. congressman whose op-ed "Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation" was published in The New York Times on the day of his July 30th funeral:

"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..."

"When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So, I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

