



MARILYN HITE ROSS

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS STATEMENT

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State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross



The Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Congressman John Lewis. He was a civil rights pioneer under the tutelage of Dr. Martin Luther King. He was a peaceful force for change and equity for all Americans. His commitment and dedication to civil rights resonated throughout his life and his tenure in congress. He was instrumental in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was passed to remove legal barriers that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. One of his first legislative acts was to introduce legislation to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture. After 15 years, the museum opened on September 24, 2016. He touched the lives of millions of Americans and because of his efforts, doors were opened and walls were torn down. He and his contemporaries persevered for a more fairer and equitable America that continued until his death. He has now passed that torch to all of his children who currently enjoy professional opportunities as a result of his sacrifices.

We are his legacy. Without his efforts and sacrifices, I would not be blessed with the honor and privilege of serving as the eighteenth State's Attorney for Winnebago County. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Marilyn Hite Ross
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