

OpenVoiceNews U.S.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Tampa Bay Demonstrations Mark John Lewis' Anniversary

July 15, 2025

– Categories: Human Rights



Download IPFS

Thousands of demonstrators gathered across the Tampa Bay region on Thursday to commemorate the fifth anniversary of civil rights leader and former Congressman John Lewis's passing. The events, promoted as "Good Trouble Lives On," were framed by organizers as a nationwide effort to oppose policies they consider harmful to civil liberties during President Donald Trump's administration.

According to Citizens Against Tyranny, a group coordinating the main rally in Tampa, more than 56,000 individuals nationwide signed up to participate in over 1,500 events. The Tampa gathering took place at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park at 5:30 p.m., drawing crowds carrying signs and chanting slogans invoking Lewis's legacy. Indivisible North Pinellas, a local chapter of the progressive organization Indivisible, also staged a demonstration at Gulf to Bay Boulevard and Park Place Boulevard earlier in the afternoon. Additional rallies unfolded in St. Petersburg and Largo.

Organizers describe the protests as a necessary stand against what they label as attacks on civil and human rights. On its website, Citizens Against Tyranny stated that "Good Trouble Lives On is a national day of action to respond to the attacks on our civil and human rights by the Trump administration." The phrase "good trouble," popularised by Lewis, has become a rallying cry for those advocating nonviolent resistance to government policies they oppose.

However, not everyone sees these demonstrations in the same light. White House spokesperson Liz Huston defended the administration's record in a statement, emphasizing that "nearly 80 million Americans gave President Trump a historic mandate to Make America Great Again, and he is delivering on that promise in record time." Supporters of the administration point to economic growth, regulatory rollbacks, and strengthened national security as evidence of policies that many voters continue to endorse.

John Lewis, who represented Georgia's Fifth Congressional District for more than 30 years, was widely respected for his role in the civil rights movement. He was arrested over 40 times and was repeatedly injured while championing voting rights and equality. In a 2019 speech, Lewis remarked that Rosa Parks inspired him to "get in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble."

Demonstrations targeting President Trump's policies have continued steadily since the start of the year, including the Tesla Takedown in March and Free America protests on Independence Day. Indivisible, the broader protest network, recently launched a large-scale campaign to train one million volunteers in strategies such as non-cooperation and community organizing.

While organizers argue that these events are essential to preserving civil rights, critics suggest that the protests often lack focus and risk inflaming divisions. As the country

continues to grapple with debates over the proper balance between individual rights and national priorities, gatherings like these are likely to remain a fixture in American civic life.