

The Honorable John R. Lewis
U.S. Representative of Georgia (1987–2020)

Kennedy Presidential Campaign: Part One

The Honorable John R. Lewis details his involvement in Senator Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign and the night Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot.

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So, when Robert Kennedy announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for President, it was in Jackson, Mississippi, it was around March 15th, I sent him a telegram and said I would like to help, I'd like to be helpful. So, he had his staff contact me and suggested that I go to, I believe Lake County, Indiana, Indianapolis. And I went there to do voter registration, to organize a rally where he was coming to speak, and I was there the evening or night, April 4, 1968, when we heard that Dr. King had been shot. We had just heard that he had been shot, we didn't know his condition or anything like that. We continued to work, and Bobby Kennedy came in, some people didn't want him to speak and I insisted that he had to speak, and we had this rally out in this open space. He made a decision to come and he spoke, and he announced that Dr. King had been assassinated. That was a very sad time for me.