FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 19, 2020
CONTACT: Kathy Dempsey for NAC, 202-359-4379

Congressman John Lewis: The Voice of Conscience
RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT
Statement by Lawrence E. Couch, Director
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

In this time of civil unrest and pandemic upheaval, the United States has lost a great man, a moral voice and a bridge builder. As a country and to a person, we mourn the loss of Congressman John Lewis.

We offer our prayers to his family, friends, colleagues, staffers and constituents.

Being the same age as Congressman Lewis, he has always been for me a voice of conscience, a reminder of the importance to act bravely and to do what is right. He did so with a fortitude and strength of spirit, with peaceful defiance and a belief to add to society, not diminish one group of people to lift up another.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on Congress to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act in memory of Congressman Lewis and because it is the right thing to do. We have seen over the last seven years increasing hostility to full voting rights for all Americans since the U.S. Supreme Court partially struck down the Voting Rights Act. We have seen new barriers put up to restrict the number of voters of color, suppressing the full American voice and skewing our response to important civil and human rights issues in need of our attention. As people of faith, we are called to liberate the oppressed and marginalized. Let us restore the vote.

Congressman Lewis will be missed by all who care for social justice. If we are to do justice to his name and legacy, we must commit to Good Trouble. We must continue to build a racially just and an economically just United States of America.

The National Advocacy Center educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their
Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

-30-