



The CARES Act Doesn't Help Most College Students



Photo Courtesy of Forbes

By **Mason Ayers**

Contributing Writer

College students have been kicked out of their housing, laid off from their jobs and have had their schoolwork demands raised. Not to mention, college students still have bills to pay, and under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) most college students won't receive a nickel of aid.

The relief aid package states that qualifying adults will receive one-time stimulus payments of \$1,200 plus an additional \$500 per child. However, dependents over the age of 16 will receive nothing. According to PEW analysis, people under 24 are at a higher risk of losing their jobs as a result of the coronavirus than any

other group. Regardless of employment, being a full-time student and/or having bills to pay, any college student who is claimed on their parent's taxes is ineligible for a stimulus check. Also, the parents of college students who are claimed on their taxes will not receive the additional \$500. Because most American college students are claimed as dependents, this excludes the majority of students from aid.

This means that many students have been kicked out, and told to go home, even if they don't have a home to go to. Many of them have lost their meal plans, even if they relied on them to survive. Many of them are out of work, even if they still have bills due. And most of them can't look to the

American government for help. Simply put, many of these students are on their own. While some may have family and friends to fall back on, others don't have a place to turn.

With no end to the financial damage done as a result of the coronavirus in sight, many students are living in limbo. Aside from the virus itself, which has caused mass hysteria, student's lives have been turned upside down. Amidst all of this, students are asked to register for the next two semesters worth of classes. With summer and fall classes in a state of confusion, students aren't able to use their best judgment. Many universities already don't have the class capacities, course sections offered and/or professors needed to fulfill the class needs of their student

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body. So, students don't have the choice to wait it out. If they wait, then they are likely to lose their spot.

This is a stressful time for college students, but for many of them the expectation is to move forward as if their needs have been met, when, in reality, their needs haven't been met. Decency is supposed to matter. However, money and decency don't always coexist. Maybe the next time that congress affectionately coins an act the "CARES Act," it should actually involve care to all age groups in need.

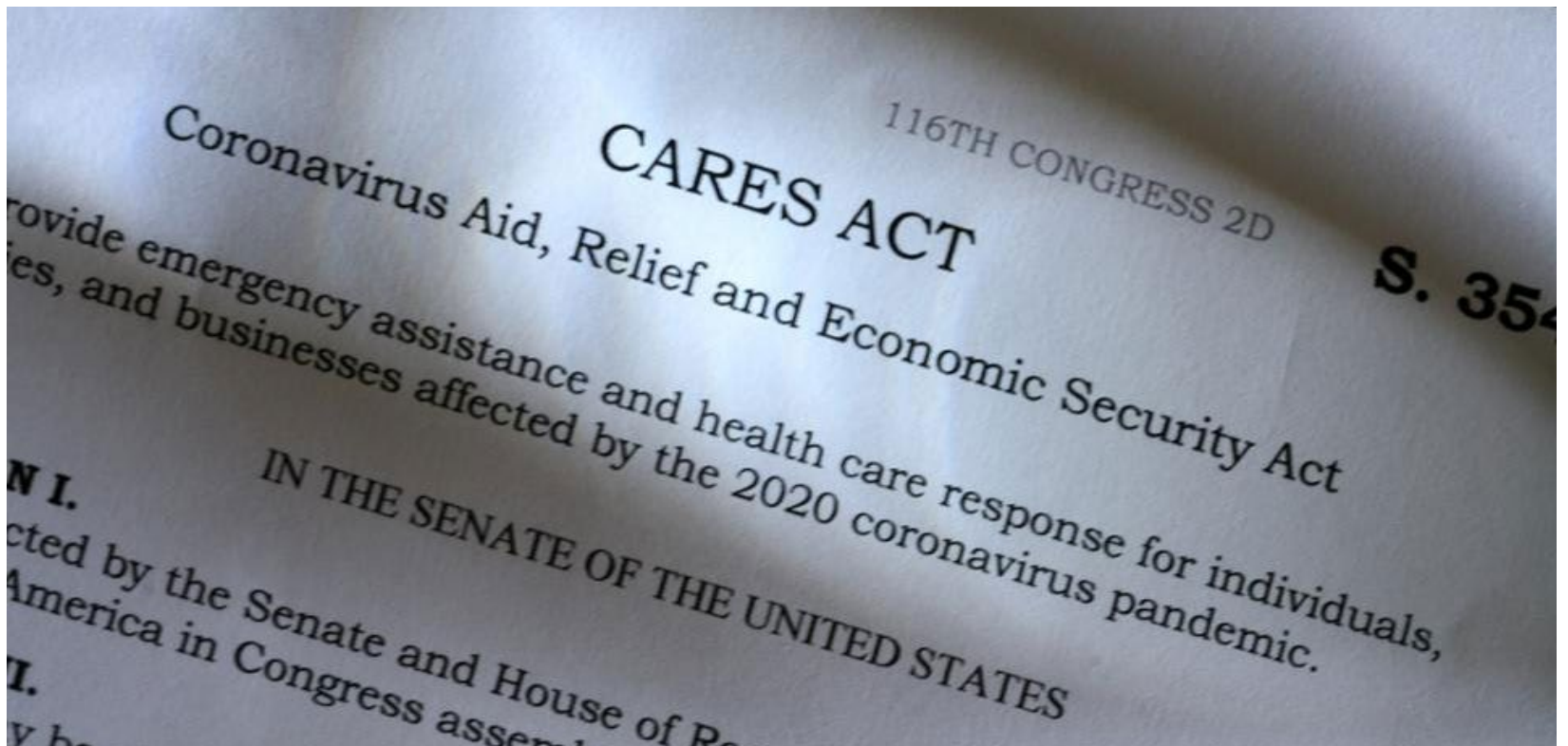


Photo Courtesy of Forbes



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

Review of Netflix Original *Ozark*

By **Shelby Carroll**

Contributing Writer

From the beginning, the Netflix original series *Ozark* has been a high stakes and entertaining crime drama that takes its viewers on a wild ride with a money laundering family on the run, the Byrdes. Created by Bill Dubuque, Mark Williams, and directed by showrunner Chris Mund, an intricate story line is constructed placing the Byrde family in a knotted web of money laundering that leaves them cornered with nowhere to go.

The main character Marty Byrde, played by Jason Bateman, and his wife Wendy, played by Laura Linney, give viewers a lively and combative power hungry couple that have practically struck a deal with the devil when they agree to launder money for a Mexican drug cartel.

While they are steadily suffocating under the insurmountable level of debt, this core married couple seen as dead folks walking with targets always on their heads, portray a believable and compelling character set that could potentially have them around for many more

than just three seasons.

Season 1 of *Ozark* sucked viewers in by familiarizing them with Marty and the family then surging them with a level of shock that would indefinitely create a lasting and intriguing effect, ensuring they came back for more of the story. With a stellar performance by the cast and viewer's fascination for the illegal business itself, *Ozark* blended action with fear and used bits of violence and tragedy to turn it into an entertaining thriller.

Season 2 of *Ozark* establishes the family into a centrally located home in Missouri that almost makes the once immediate peril of the story seem too content to simply allow them to buy more time. Many essential characters to the story are introduced in season 2 and a lot of emotional tension among these characters is unraveled, making it essential information to the Byrde family's journey. Marty and Wendy's children take on much more defined roles in this season as well.

They are shown growing up and truly understanding what their parents are involved in, which sparks their involvement

out of family loyalty. Season 3 was released on March 27 with a fresh set of 10 new episodes.

This season begins about where the previous season left off, with Marty and Wendy's ever perilous descent as a married couple and currently growing struggle as "business partners." While both are family oriented and try to do what they individually view as best for the group, their opposing instincts clash with a mixture of delusion, selflessness and persistent panic.

The two consistently battle it out, trying to decipher who knows best and consistently thinking that they have personally found the efficient route to safety. Season 3 focuses less on the couples delusions and more on their plans to action.

While the previous seasons have focused primarily on Marty and almost make you feel as if he is facing the business head on, season 3 puts Wendy directly in the spotlight. The FBI makes an encroaching appearance that adds depth to the war within the situation and expands the focus from primarily being Marty and the cartel. When

a second cartel war is introduced into the story it makes the outcome unpredictable and the opportunity endless. At this point Marty and Wendy are at the mercy of whichever way the wind might blow, no matter how smart their strategies may seem. *Ozark* is driven by a lot of decision making that transitions into immediate conflict and continuous drama.

Season 3 also depicts the cartel and their ruthless actions far more than any other season has, giving a face to the ominous drug lord of the story, Omar Navarro (Felix Solis). This season keeps the audience on their toes while consistently dialing up the pressure of the plot. The mood induced by the murky lakeside water is incomparable as to how it sets the tone.

Overall, season 3 of *Ozark* is a perilous, game changing chapter that calls Marty and Wendy to action in an anticipated way that has not fully been exhausted until now. This season leaves viewers questioning whether their family will make it out of the lake alive, and if so, where will they go from there?

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Netflix’s *The Circle*: A Popularity Experiment



By **Amber Bell**
Contributing Writer

As many people are being confined to their homes, streaming services have a great opportunity to present new content. With new shows popping up across different platforms weekly, many took notice when Netflix presented *The Circle*. This show drives contestants to become the most popular player within their small group. Whoever is chosen to be the winner receives a grand prize of \$100,000.

The *Circle* is all about building relationships, instilling trust in one another and being the most popular person in the group. Contestants each choose a name, profile picture and gender. However, some of the players decided to pro-

vide false information on their profiles, commonly known as “catfishing.” One challenge that the players face is not knowing who to trust while going through the competition. Each contestant ranks one another, putting them in a list from one (the best) to seven (the worst). The two most popular players, also known as influencers, gain immunity from being sent home that week. They are also the ones who have the power to send a player home. Once a player is removed from the game, a new contestant will sometimes join the show. By not being able to see the other players in person, each participant must win over the others by communicating to them by sending them messages through a television

Image Courtesy of Medium.com

screen that is relayed to the other rooms. This provides a certain challenge that each contestant must face. They must build relationships based on personal or even group texts. The majority of the contestants built relationships quickly and stuck with them until the end.

Many of the contestants had no problem trusting one another after a couple casual conversations. Group chats were a common commodity throughout the entire show. By building up trust between players, they were able to team up and root out the weaker players.

The less popular players usually tend to have a smaller friend group that consisted of one or two other contestants. This can lead to people providing a sense of false identity. Oftentimes

in reality television, people will tell each other what others want to hear in order to think there are remaining positive and on their side. At the end of the day, \$100,000 for being the most popular would still be on the line. With the majority of our society being on social media platforms today, many people only portray positive messages and post that others will find intriguing. This raises the question on how far people are really willing to go in order to be popular.

In the show, the ones that were noticeably providing false information, lying in group chats or introverted, quickly found themselves close to, or even at the bottom, of the weekly ratings. Having to retain a positive image and optimistic attitude throughout the show is rather easy for some people. However, some of the contestants struggle greatly with being able to bond and cope with others, leading their time on the show to be limited.

People want to be seen as constantly happy and content, and they have the ability to show that through many online platforms such as social media posts. *The Circle* did a great job at portraying parts of the social world that we live in today. People will often go to extremes just to gain popularity and be accepted in today’s society. With roughly 60% of the world’s population on social media, it is in our nature to want to be the most popular person in any group that we are involved in.

Uppity: The Willy T. Ribbs Story on Netflix

By **Damani Smith**
Contributing Writer

Willy T. Ribbs became the first black man to race in the Indianapolis 500, one of the biggest auto races in the world, in 1993. This feat was so huge at the time, a documentary on Ribbs’ life and career was recently filmed as a Netflix Documentary. *Uppity* was released in February for Black History month and talks about Ribbs’ struggle

to break barriers and stand out in order to accomplish his lifelong goal, which was to compete in the Indy 500.

When Ribbs was young, he used to take his grandfather’s car around the countryside. Because his family owned a farm, the countryside was the most accessible for him. His family disapproved of this initially, but Ribbs made a way going overseas to race in Europe. Ribbs proved himself, winning

races and championships, even when driving in cars that were not as upgraded and fast as his teammates’ cars. He was so good that when he came back to America to race, his owners would give him orders to let his teammates win and would rig his cars to have failures. This happened throughout Ribbs’ career, whether he was racing in NASCAR, Formula 1 or in the Trans-AM racing Series.

Ribbs had to overcome a huge amount of racism and he talks about his experiences with it. When he attempted to run a NASCAR race at Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama, one of the most racist states in America at the time, his owner received threatening phone calls. They referred to Ribbs as the N-word and threatened to kill both him and his owner if he allowed Ribbs to drive his car that day. Ultimately, Ribbs did not compete in that race. Their safety came first.

Years later, Ribbs elected to run another NASCAR race. During

driver introductions, Ribbs was booed by the crowd. Now deceased NASCAR legend, Dale Earnhardt, was embarrassed and shook Ribbs’ hand in the midst of this, to indicate Ribbs was in fact welcomed by his competitors.

Ribbs then went on to attempt the Indianapolis 500 for the second time after a failed attempt at it years prior. In 1993, Bill Cosby funded his startup entry in the biggest race of the year and left it up to Ribbs to secure the sponsor. Ribbs had little luck, but he still showed up to Indianapolis Motor Speedway with his little team. They had used equipment, which put them at a major disadvantage to the rest of the field.

Several of his cars had bad engines, causing them to have to go over their budget and lose money. However, Ribbs was ready to take on the challenge of qualifying. He ran a lap fast enough to ultimately make it in the race and became the first African-American to race in the Indianapolis 500.

Major Music Events Canceled Due to COVID-19



Image Courtesy of 97.9 WRMF

By Shelby Carroll

Contributing Writer

Since the end of 2019 the coronavirus disease has ravaged not only everyday life but largely the functionality of the entertainment industry as well. As it continues to spread, event organizers have been pushed to make the humane decision of postponing or canceling large gatherings from concerts, important conferences and even major sports tournaments. The disease has now reached every U.S. state as well as over 150 countries, so the list of canceled events seems endless as our world continues every day on standby.

Musical artists began calling off their Asian tour dates and concerts back in early January after awareness spread of the danger associated with the swiftness of COVID-19 as it quickly overtook Asian countries. R&B artist Khalid was one of the first to postpone his Asian tour dates on Feb. 14 regarding concerns for “the safety of Khalid’s fans, his team and everyone who has been working on these concerts.” The original tour dates were between March 24 - April 14. Others like the band Green Day postponed their Asian tour dates and artist Avril Lavigne canceled hers on Feb. 29.

“Please everybody take care of yourselves and stay healthy,” Lavi-

gne wrote. “You’re in my thoughts and prayers and we are hoping to announce rescheduled shows soon.” Queen and Adam Lambert were scheduled to perform a show in Paris on May 26 and have also postponed after France sent out a government decree to cancel all events over 5,000 persons until May 31 in an attempt to contain the virus.

Justin Bieber and Harry Styles are other male artists who were forced to postpone their 2020 tours. Bieber’s Changes tour was scheduled to run May 14 - Sept. 26. Style’s Love on Love tour of the U.K. and Europe has been moved to 2021. Female artists Ciara and Mariah Carey made decisions to postpone their upcoming performances until later this year as well.

“With the continued spread of the Coronavirus throughout the U.S., as a pregnant woman, my doctors have advised me to limit travel and large group gatherings,” said Ciara to the Associated Press. Madonna, Miley Cyrus, Cher, Billie Eilish and Celine Dion are among a variety of other female artists that were forced to cancel their performances. Madonna was forced to cancel her Madame X Tour mid advance, and Miley canceled her trip to Australia to perform at the World Tour Bushfire Relief concert, which also included an appearance from Lil Nas X.

Bands like Pearl Jam, Guns N’ Roses, Dan + Shay, the Jonas Brothers and the Rolling Stones have made the same difficult but necessary decisions. “We have been through a lot as a band over the past 30 years and we did not make this decision lightly,” Pearl Jam explained on a fan FAQ. “Our team worked tirelessly to see if we could keep the tour going. It became clear by Monday afternoon that we would not be able to – in good conscience – head out on the road. Even though our gear was already en route and our crew was on the ground for rehearsals, we made the difficult decision to postpone. We wanted you all to know as soon as we knew so you could make your own plans.”

Moreover, on March 4 city officials called off Ultra Music Festival’s flagship Miami festival, originally scheduled for March 20-22. The C2C: Country to Country music festival scheduled for March 13 in London, Dublin, and Glasgow has postponed to later unknown dates. J. Cole’s second annual Dreamville Festival was originally scheduled for April 4 in Raleigh, NC, but has been rescheduled for Aug. 29. Bonnaroo has been rescheduled for Sept. 24-27. A rescheduled date of Aug. 15 has been announced by the indie pop band National Parks for the Superbloom Music

Festival in Utah. The New York festival Governor’s Ball was to be headlined by Tame Impala, Flume, and Vampire Weekend, but has been cancelled indefinitely. On March 31 Alabama’s Hangout Fest made the decision to cancel their three-day event in Gulf Shores, which was scheduled to feature artists such as Red Hot Chili Peppers, Lana Del Rey and Post Malone. “This morning we received notice from the City of Gulf Shores that Hangout 2020 cannot proceed in May due to COVID-19,” Hangout Fest tweeted.

“After our fastest sellout ever, and what was shaping up to be a banner year on the beach, we are gutted that this is the outcome for all of you, but agree that this is the right decision for the health and safety of everyone involved.”

As the virus continues to spread, events are unavoidably being canceled or postponed around the world at a progressive daily rate. Right now the health and protection of humanity is everyone’s greatest concern, as it should be. While a pandemic like such is concerning and traumatic, it is a humbling reminder that we are all human and we must work together to protect life on Earth. We all face the same impending dangers to humanity, no matter one’s social status or net worth.

Conway's *Lulu* is Lyrical Gold

By **Joey Walraven**

Contributing Writer

After a tremendous group album, Griselda rapper Conway the Machine dropped his most recent project *Lulu*. The project is very short, with only seven songs. Each song is produced by legendary hip-hop producer, The Alchemist. Alchemist has worked with Conway on countless projects and is a staple of the Griselda sound.

The album is inspired top to bottom by the classic film, *Paid in Full* (2002). The movie tells the true story of three hustlers from Harlem during the crack epidemic in the 1980's. The title of the album is named after the drug connect for the main character, Ace Boogie. Given the drug dealer influence and references

on the album, it ties the project in perfectly. Several intros and outros to songs have scenes from the film. Songs such as "14 KI's," "Calvin" and "They Got Sonny" are all directly related to characters and scenes in the movie. The real-life characters of *Paid in Full* are known as "street legends," and played an incredible influence in the life and career of Conway. In terms of lyricism, Conway is at a top-tier level that few hip-hop artists can match. After his unbelievable verse on Charlie Sloth's "Fire in the Booth" show, it was evident that Conway was poised to make an impressive run, and *Lulu* is a great start. There is not a single line on the album that was wasted. It's evident that Conway put a lot of effort into the lyr-

ics. The references to selling drugs, getting money, getting women and wearing fly clothes paint very vivid images for the listener and are a direct reflection of Conway's past and current life.

The Alchemist plays a giant role in the success of the project. While he is known to have many different sounds throughout his career, his work with Conway and other Griselda members consists of dark beats that create a gritty sound, similar to the 1990's era of hip-hop. Given the content of his lyrics, these types of beats help create an experience for the listener. The beats almost sound sad, which perfectly aligns with *Paid in Full*, which is filled with several sad turns. The chemistry between Alchemist and Conway is on full dis-

play and creates a perfect, old-school hip-hop vibe.

Perhaps the seven-song selection is what makes the project shine the most. In 2018, Kanye West presented three albums from the G.O.O.D. Music label that were all seven songs long.

The formula has been successful and continued to be successful on *Lulu*. While Conway can clearly make a project over seven songs, the decision set the stage perfectly. The short songs on an even shorter tracklist had zero flaws and transitioned into each other smoothly. The minimal play time also allows the listener to easily invest themselves into the project. While it did work well, it leaves the listener yearning for more from Conway. Had the project been at least eleven songs, it would have been regarded as a hip-hop classic. For anyone who enjoys the lyrical music at the center of hip-hop's essence or even *Paid in Full*, *Lulu* is a great choice.



Image Courtesy of Stitcher

BSI The Podcast Increases Content for COVID-19

By **Kyle Soto**

Contributing Writer

In the sports media world, connections are crucial for journalists to obtain information and create specialized content for sports fans. The United States and its top-flight soccer league, Major League Soccer, affords those who cover MLS matches the ability to venture into the locker room after matches to speak with and interview players. That may be a given in the States, but that practice is unheard of in other soccer leagues around the globe.

Even then, players — especially those who first come into MLS and experience the culture shock of journalists hav-

ing access to the locker room — may not be all that willing to speak with 100% honesty for whatever reason during a post-match interview. It's an understandable sentiment. Players and clubs are oftentimes wary of what they say to the press.

On BSI: The Podcast, those sentiments are more or less forgotten. The podcast is hosted by Benny Feilhaber, Sal Zizzo, and Ike Opara. All three are Americans who have at some point played in MLS. Opara is the only active player in the league currently plying his trade for Minnesota United. Zizzo plays in the USL Championship, and Feilhaber announced his retirement from the game as a player earlier

this year on the podcast. The podcast offers an extremely unique perspective into MLS, an admittedly intriguing and occasionally unusual league. All three of the hosts have vast experience in American soccer and MLS, opening a doorway for fans to digest American soccer lore through interviews and storytelling with other players that are brought on as guests.

While any given athlete may be personable and willing to make appearances on talk shows and podcasts, the personal connection the hosts have with their guests is a core component as to what differentiates this podcast from others. More often than not, the guest is a personal friend of at least one of the hosts, though the trio has broken away from that mold on a few occasions by bringing in United States Women's National Team players Jessica McDonald and Emily Sonnet. They've also indicated they will look to branch out and bring on guests they may not know as well. The podcast has featured some of the biggest names in the American soccer landscape, including Landon Donovan, Stu Holden, Carlos Vela, Maurice Edu, Chris Wondolowski, and a handful of others. While Feilhaber seemingly has aspirations for a post-playing career in some vein of soccer, the lax nature of the podcast has created a space for these friends to have hilar-

ious conversations and tell obscure and often times never-before-heard stories.

As former and current players who have played with and against the majority of their guests, the hosts have their own entertaining stories and experiences that eradicate the disconnect between themselves and their guests that would otherwise be present.

The podcast even includes fan questions sent in via social media for each episode's final segment: Ike's Interrogation. Opara has the chance to ask the guests five questions that put the guest on the hot seat. The guest has the chance to "plead the fifth" to one of the questions, but if the guest answers all five questions, they have the chance to ask any of the three hosts any question that they're then required to answer. Oftentimes, the ensuing banter and stumbling over answers throughout this segment makes for good entertainment.

The BSI trio has increased its episode output during the coronavirus pandemic to assist its listeners during this unprecedented and troubling time. They've even set up a gofundme page where listeners can donate for a coronavirus relief effort. If you're looking into a way to learn more about American soccer, Major League Soccer and some of its more uncharted stories, BSI The Podcast is a great place to start.

Remembering Civil Rights Activist Joseph Lowery

By Cynthia Harris

Contributing Writer

Joseph Lowery, a major key player in the American civil rights movement, died on March 27, 2020. Lowery was a prominent civil rights player, with his activism dating back to the early 1950s. He was also a close friend to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lowery continued to champion for equal rights for all until the very end, making him an inspiration to many then and now.

Lowery was born on Oct. 6, 1921 in Huntsville, AL. Despite being raised from humble beginnings, Lowery's early years were not easygoing. When he was a young boy, Lowery was beaten by a white police officer for not moving off of the sidewalk while walking near a white man. Lowery's parents raised him with the mindset to remain nonviolent,

something he continued to believe in all of his life. Lowery went to middle school in Chicago before returning to Alabama to attend college. Lowery attended Knoxville College and Alabama A&M College before graduating from Paine College.

Lowery became an ordained minister in 1950 and pastored the Warren Street Methodist Church from 1952 to 1961. He began his civil rights career by helping lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott after Rosa Parks' infamous arrest in 1955. He founded and headed up the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, which was an organization dedicated to desegregation of buses and all public places. In 1957, alongside other civil rights leaders including Fred Shuttlesworth and MLK Jr., Lowery founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference known as the SCLC. He

became the organization's third president and led from 1977 until 1997.

Lowery was also a lead participant in the Selma marches in 1965. Lowery's activism did not stop at only American issues. He was also a founder of the Black Leadership Forum, which was created to directly oppose the existence of apartheid in South Africa. As a result of protesting the practice during the Free South Africa movement, Lowery was among the first five people arrested outside of the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. Lowery also served as the pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church from 1986 until 1992 and was responsible for bringing more than 1,000 people into the church as members. Among Lowery's many honors, the city of Atlanta renamed Ashby Street in honor of Lowery. Joseph

E. Lowery Boulevard, is a prominent street in downtown Atlanta that runs through all of Atlanta's Historically Black College and Universities. Lowery also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP in 1997, and they gave him the nickname "the dean of the civil rights movement," as well as several honorary doctorates from multiple colleges and universities. Lowery also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama on July 30, 2009.

Lowery left behind a massive legacy of peace and hard work. He was a strong advocate for equal rights for every person and did all that he could to make that dream come true. Lowery's death has had a huge impact on the community and has brought down the curtain on the life of an incredible man.



Photo Courtesy of Time Magazine