

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Meck Dec Day marks a defining moment in our nation's history when brave North Carolinians—united by their common pursuit of freedom—stepped forward to become the very first Americans to declare independence from the tyrannical crown of Great Britain.

This courageous act of defiance paved the way for the establishment of the United States of America and our great experiment in democracy.

North Carolina's bold leaders and citizens resisted British occupation during the Revolutionary War, prompting British Commander General Cornwallis to describe our fearless city as "a hornet's nest of rebellion."

It's in this spirit that our community continues to stand for liberty, justice and freedom.

I am so proud of our heritage and for the leadership that the State of North Carolina continues to provide this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, on this historic anniversary, I want to congratulate the city of Charlotte and all North Carolinians.

I welcome each and every one of my colleagues to join us in celebrating this important moment in our history and the great North Carolinians who risked everything to lay claim to our rights and freedom.

HONORING ARMY PRIVATE HENRY JOHNSON AND ARMY SERGEANT WILLIAM SHEMIN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave service of Army Private Henry Johnson and Army Sergeant William Shemin. Army Private Henry Johnson and Army Sergeant William Shemin valiantly fought to defend our nation during World War I.

Army Private Henry Johnson entered the Army on June 5, 1917. He served in Company C, the 15th New York Infantry Regiment, an all-black National Guard unit. In 1918, Army Private Henry Johnson's unit, then the 369th Infantry Regiment, was ordered into battle in France and fought in front-line combat. Army Private Johnson courageously risked his life to defend those of his fellow soldiers.

Army Sergeant William Shemin entered the Army on October 2, 1917. He served as a

member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, originally located in Syracuse, New York. In May of 1918, Army Sergeant Shemin arrived in France to fight as a rifleman within his platoon. Army Sergeant Shemin not only put himself in danger to rescue his wounded fellow soldiers, but also took command of his platoon following the death of his superior officers.

Army Private Henry Johnson and Army Sergeant William Shemin proudly served and represented New York and our entire nation. Nearly 100 years after their service, Army Private Henry Johnson and Army Sergeant William Shemin will be awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama on June 2nd. It is a privilege to share in the recognition of these American heroes, Army Private Henry Johnson and Army Sergeant William Shemin.

HONORING ALIVIA DAVIS, WINNER OF THE 2015 FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA ART COMPETITION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alivia Davis, winner of the 2015 Fourth Congressional District of Florida Art Competition in my home town of Jacksonville, Florida. Nationally, the Congressional Art Competition recognizes some of the finest high school student artists, and there is no doubt that Alivia belongs among this illustrious group. Her drawing, titled "Magnif.eyed," could not be a better representation of the artistic ability of Northeast Florida, and I am proud to recognize her on the House Floor today.

Alivia recently completed her freshman year of high school at Stanton College Preparatory School, an academically renowned public high school in Jacksonville. Competing against thousands of high school students across the Fourth Congressional District, Alivia's artistic ability and execution set her apart from the rest. Alivia's "Magnif.eyed" depicts her younger brother's face as seen beneath a magnifying glass. The attention to detail is extraordinary; the hair is vivid and lifelike, the eyes incredibly vibrant, and the shading meticulously applied. Alivia shows artistic skills far beyond her years.

Alivia comes from a large and loving family. Her proud father and mother, Daniel and Rebekah, as well as her siblings Caroline, Christian, and Gabe, have been a constant source of support throughout her life. Tony Wood, art teacher at Stanton College Preparatory School, and a renowned artist himself, has paintings displayed in various art galleries around Jacksonville. He mentored and encouraged Alivia to submit her artwork for the competition, and I can only hope that in her upcoming years at Stanton, he will continue to guide Alivia in all of her artistic abilities.

I am honored to recognize Alivia Davis as the winner of the Fourth Congressional District Art Competition, and I could not be happier to see her drawing hang in the halls of Congress over the next year, proudly representing Northeast Florida. Alivia has a bright future ahead of her. Regardless of what that future holds, whether that be to pursue her artistic talents or otherwise, I believe that she will always find success.

RECOGNIZING NACHA ON ENABLING UBIQUITOUS SAME-DAY PAYMENTS DURING DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DIRECT PAYMENT VIA ACH MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as the Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via Automated Clearing House (ACH) Month. NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association serves as trustee of the ACH Network, enabling payments such as direct deposit and direct payment via ACH. Annually, the network processes 23 billion ACH transactions valued at more than \$40 trillion. As a self-governing, collaborative rule maker and educator, NACHA helps to expand and diversify electronic payments, ensuring the Network remains universal and secure, creating value, and enabling innovation for all participants.

To coincide with this year's recognition of Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month, the NACHA membership has approved an Operating Rules change to enable same-day settlement capabilities for virtually any ACH transaction. The proposal received broad support from financial institutions, businesses, government agencies and regulators, consumer groups, and other interested parties. This new same-day service ACH allows the financial services industry to offer an option to consumers, businesses and governments, who want to move their money faster.

I commend NACHA's commitment to enhancing the versatility and improving the strength of the ACH Network for consumers, governments, businesses, and financial institutions that rely on the network to move their money via ACH. This introduction of same-day ACH is an immediate action undertaken by financial institutions to modernize the payments system, and it creates a building block for a variety of innovative products and services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association for its work to move payments safely and more efficiently through same-day ACH and in recognizing May as Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month.

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