

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.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1735, the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act.

The National Defense Authorization Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation that this body votes on each year. While this bill does authorize much needed funding for our men and women in uniform, ultimately it ignores the current budget landscape that our military is facing.

Consistent with the Republican budget, this year's defense authorization bill uses the Overseas Contingency Operations budget as a backdoor loophole to get around sequestration by funding \$38 billion of the Pentagon's regular base budget activities with war funds—a blatant abuse of the budget process. Just one year ago, House Republicans criticized the abuse of the OCO loophole in their budget report, stating that it “undermines the integrity of the budget process” and that the Budget Committee would “oppose increases above the levels the Administration and our military commanders say are needed to carry out operations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such amounts are war-related.”

Moreover, in following the strategy of the Republican budget, the NDAA begins the process of locking in sequestration for non-defense programs, which will have a devastating impact on investments critical to the nation. We need to get back to the table to have an honest debate about our budget and renegotiate the funding caps for both defense and nondefense. Only then will we be able to provide the necessary resources for our national security needs and to ensure we keep the nation's commitments to education, research, infrastructure, and other crucial drivers of economic prosperity.

I also have many problems with a number of misguided provisions in this year's NDAA. Once again, this year's NDAA includes a provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I strongly opposed Rep. Walorski's amendment to keep Guantanamo open for at least two more years beyond FY16 and was disappointed that an amendment offered by Ranking Member Smith to provide a framework for closure of Guantanamo by the end of 2016 was rejected.

I also oppose efforts by Republicans to strike an important provision in this bill which would have stated that it was the sense of the House that our military should review whether “DREAMers” should be allowed to enlist and serve in the Armed Forces. In addition, I object to provisions that prohibit the Pentagon from entering into contracts to construct alter-

native fuel refineries and prevent our military from developing alternative energy sources that have the potential to save money and enhance our energy security. Finally, I object to the inclusion of unrequested funding for many weapons systems, including an extra \$1.15 billion for extra F/A-18 aircraft and \$128 million for extra UH-60 helicopters.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was pleased that a bipartisan amendment I introduced with Congressman Mulvaney was adopted and will require Congress to report on how funds authorized for overseas contingency operations were ultimately used. I also support the increased 2.3 percent pay raise for our troops and their families.

While this legislation does authorize much needed funding for programs that benefit our men and women in uniform, ultimately, this bill falls short in too many areas. It is my hope that many of my objections to the NDAA will be resolved in Conference with the Senate but I can't support it in its current form.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
ON THE WAY TO 3 MILLION HOMES**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's Friday night. You come home from work, tired and hungry for supper.

There is a big stack of mail on the table you sift through, including one piece addressed to you from the government.

You open the envelope only to find a survey. The survey asks you a series of questions like: How many toilets do you have in your house? When do you leave and return from work? Does anyone in your home suffer from mental illness? Does your house have a sink with a faucet? Do you have a refrigerator?

This government-mandated questionnaire is known as the American Community Survey. Three million Americans each year are “lucky” enough to be selected to answer this mandatory survey. The American Community Survey is independent from the Census. This survey is more intrusive, more personal and more time consuming. Not to mention, it is 28 pages long and mandatory.

Understandably, many people dismiss this survey, tossing it out or feeling too uncomfortable to divulge such personal information. But throwing it away does not make it disappear.

If you fail to answer the survey, the government will come after you. It begins with phone calls. If the calls go answered or the survey is incomplete, the calls will increase from weekly to daily. Then the eyes of the federal government are sent to houses of the unwilling, to ring the doorbell and peak in the window. This is harassment. No one wants the government doing drop-ins to their home. Quite the opposite, the majority of Americans want the government to leave them alone. And on top of all the harassment and intimidation by Census Bureau emissaries, citizens who still choose not to answer, are threatened with a criminal penalty, and in some cases face up to a \$5,000 fine.

In an effort to help protect American's privacy, I reintroduced legislation that would

make the American Community Survey voluntary. This survey is another example of unnecessary and completely unwarranted government intrusion.

The federal government has no right to force Americans to divulge such private information, especially information that they are uncomfortable giving away.

But this is happening all over America and even right here in Southeast Texas. I have had neighbors contact me for years complaining about this government harassment.

According to the Constitution, article 1, section 2, a count of the nation's population is required to be conducted every ten years. The purpose of the Census is to apportion congressional seats and levy direct taxes. But the American Community Survey achieves none of that, except information on American's toilet flushing patterns.

I believe in a limited government and will work to protect American citizens from government abuse and harassment. Bottom line, Americans should have the choice on whether they want to tell Washington how many toilets they have.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HEAD START**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate Head Start on its 50th year of service to children and families. Fifty years ago yesterday, President Lyndon Johnson stood in the White House Rose Garden and announced the creation of Head Start.

This pioneering federal program became a foundation of his historic anti-poverty plan. Head Start was designed to ensure that children from low-income families had access to a quality early childhood education.

This program has long served as a catalyst for long-term educational achievement and is considered the nation's premier school readiness program.

Head Start recognizes that parents are the initial and most important educators in their child's life and works to inspire and support affirmative parental involvement with their children.

In addition to building strong parent-child relationships, Head Start along with Early Head Start, provides extensive services to promote strong mental, social, and emotional development in children from birth to age five.

Head Start also provides children and their families with health screenings and nutritional education, among other integral services. The services offered to our communities by Head Start are copious and invaluable.

Evidence-based studies have shown Head Start to be tremendously effective at promoting academic success in school, avoiding crime, and fostering the development of productive, successful leaders.

Head Start is one of the longest running programs in the United States whose mission is to address systemic poverty, and it has indeed yielded impressive results.

In just 2014, Head Start served over 20,000 children and families in North Carolina alone,