

1 HR48
2 156773-1
3 By Representatives Jackson and Bracy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 16-JAN-14

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8 COMMENDING JOHN LEO SMITH ON BEING AWARDED THE
9 PRESIDENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

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11 WHEREAS, John Leo Smith, a resident of Grove Hill,
12 Alabama, in the Orange Hill Community, served with honor and
13 distinction in World War II; and

14 WHEREAS, John Leo Smith was a Montford Point Marine;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, John Leo Smith is being awarded the
17 Presidential Congressional Gold Medal on January 19, 2014, in
18 honor of his valiant service; and

19 WHEREAS, born on August 6, 1924, he entered the
20 United States Marine Corps on May 20, 1943, and received an
21 Honorable Discharge from the Second Casual Company, Montford
22 Point Camp, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in June 1946; and

23 WHEREAS, the Montford Point Marines fought two wars,
24 one abroad and one at home; while they fought for freedom
25 overseas, they returned home to a nation that was separate and
26 unequal; and

1 WHEREAS, breaking through racial barriers, they
2 transformed the face of the United States Marine Corps; and

3 WHEREAS, on June 25, 1941, President Franklin Delano
4 Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, establishing fair
5 employment by the Armed Forces; and

6 WHEREAS, from 1942 to 1949, a few brave
7 African-American men changed the United States Marine Corps
8 forever; faced with many challenges, they set out to make a
9 difference and ended up making history; and

10 WHEREAS, subjected to very intense training, the
11 Montford Point Marines endured the hardships of boot camp,
12 pushing them to limits most Marines had never experienced; the
13 success they attained served as an inspiration to countless
14 others and continues to represent the highest standards and
15 the noblest ideals of military service; and

16 WHEREAS, John Leo Smith has earned respect for his
17 exceptional abilities and unwavering commitment, and he is
18 truly worthy of the significant honor bestowed upon him; now
19 therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
21 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That John Leo Smith is hereby most
22 highly commended for his exemplary service to the nation, and
23 this certificate is offered in admiration and appreciation to
24 him, along with heartiest congratulations on his well-deserved
25 recognition in being awarded the Presidential Congressional
26 Gold Medal.