
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.

Sections

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Havana Chapman-Edwards



(Born January 5, 2011)

I'd like to introduce you to an incredibly determined, and passionate 9-year old "Change Maker" - Havana Chapman-Edwards. She gives me hope for a future of warriors fighting for and advancing the cause of civil rights and humanity – a cause started by John Lewis 55 years ago.

But, Havana is more than capable of explaining her quest for civil rights and the power of Black Girl Magic.

By DonnaMarie Woodson

Click Picture for Video



Havana Chapman-Edwards, human rights activist, “Young Changemaker.”

She may be just nine years old, but Havana Chapman-Edwards is already a seasoned and powerful activist. The daughter of a U.S. diplomat and international teacher, she said her travels to more than 30 countries have allowed her to see that [racism is a global issue](#).

And after watching the events that unfolded in the U.S. — the [death of George Floyd](#) and the protests and unrest that followed — she knew she needed to speak out.

So, Havana and her father wrote this powerful poem together.



**My ancestors were kings and queens,
you know what I mean.
Then others sacrificed and died,
to allow us to have better lives.
No matter how hard the world tries to leave people like me behind,
we still rise.
Dreaming to be on top of the world,
a wonderful time to be a girl.
Confident and strong while moving along,
this is where I belong.
Think of me
when you have the opportunity
to vote in your community.
*Don't try to stop me,
I have a dream that you can't see
That keeps me flying free.***

Havana Chapman-Edwards - I have five questions for you:

- 1. Why do our teachers read books about enslavement, but not about black inventors, astronauts, scientists, dancers, pilots, diplomats, and judges?***
- 2. Why do I go to school each year without ever having a teacher who looks like me?***
- 3. When do I go from cute to dangerous?***
- 4. Why do our leaders only talk about Black Lives Matter when it is close to an election?***
- 5. Why do I have to live with the fear that my brother and my dad might not make it home?***

We, the kids, need answers.



Havana first made headlines in March 2018, as one of the youngest members (age 7) of the nationwide cohort of students asking for gun control change. Dressed in an orange astronaut suit, Havana was the only student at her Alexandria, Virginia, elementary school to join the

National School Walkout on April 20, and an image of her sitting alone that day quickly caught people's attention on social media.

"I want to help the big kids and adults and show them I support them as much as I can until I am old enough to vote,"

Havana told Teen Vogue.

"Parenting Havana since she could talk and walk, Bethany Edwards speaks about her daughter, she has always been the person to look out for others," Edwards told TODAY. "Because of our travels, she saw so much inequality, especially in girls who looked like her. So, part of this feels like, of course this was going to happen, this was destined to happen, because she has never felt it was someone else's job to make that difference."



Ask Havana what's she learned about this whirlwind of an experience, and she'll tell you what she proved from the start: *"Even if you're tiny, your voice is not. The world leaders need to listen to the little girls trying to make change."*

As the daughter of an international-school teacher and an African American Diplomat, she's traveled the world and lived in five different countries. During these travels, she's seen the tremendous impact of education on young girls' lives.

Havana and her Dad



"I have been to 26 countries, and there are so many girls that are not in school," Havana says. "I speak out for better gun laws because they have big

dreams just like me, and they deserve to conquer them, but clean water, gun violence, and climate change are all keeping girls out of school."

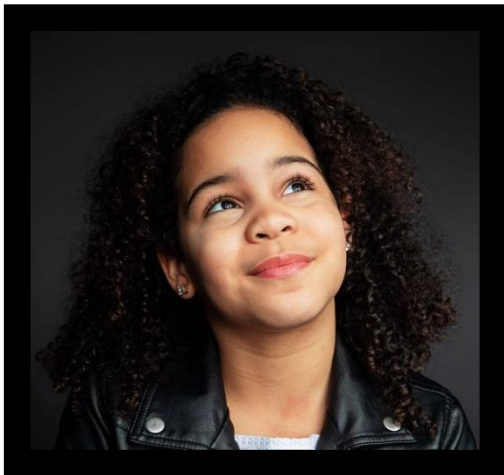
Havana and her Mom



Although these issues are a lot to handle, Havana is promoting a simple yet powerful solution: literacy and getting books in the hands of girls worldwide.



After her image went viral post-walkout, Havana started a GoFundMe account to finance a book club, which went from \$800 to \$6,000, triple her goal, in about 24 hours. She also used her newfound fame to aid a GoFundMe account started with her friend Taylor Richardson, which raised money to buy supplies for girls at an orphanage in Ghana.



When asked to imagine 21 years from now, Havana has big hopes for others embracing the work that she's doing.

"I'm doing the book club right now, and in 21 years, I'm hoping to see that girls are doing their own book clubs and donating books to kids and girls.

"Girls really need to see themselves in books and know that their future is

unlimited. I think that girls can conquer their big, giant dreams and they won't ever be silent."

God bless you, Havana. You give me such hope for our future!

(Top Photo Havana and Dad March 2018 (March for Our Lives)
Bottom Photo Havana and her Dad in DC May 2020)



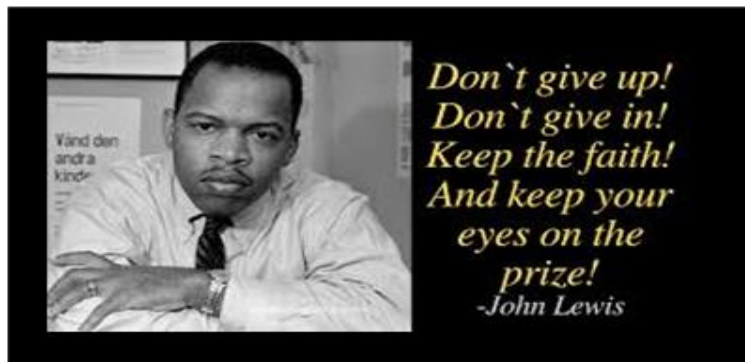
As I reflect on John Lewis' life, I remember that he started out in activism as a young man. In fact, young people were instrumental in establishing the Civil Rights Movement.

Havana, along with "Black Lives Matter" are fulfilling the promise to "speak up, speak out, and get into good trouble."

Our struggle will NEVER End, and we MUST keep

our eyes set on freedom and human rights. We MUST engage in the democratic process by educating ourselves, holding our representatives accountable, and casting our votes in respect for the men and women, young and old, who fought and died for our rights.

R.I.H John Lewis 🙏



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<https://twitter.com/TheTinyDiplomat>

Editorial

Taking a Stand

By

Tarik Kiley

July 23, 2020

Many white supremacists fly two very distinct flags. They fly the



Confederate flag and the Nazi flag. Any student of history can tell you that the United States of America fought the Confederacy in the US Civil War and also the Nazis in World War II (WWII). Well, let's examine the arguments of the US

Presidents who were alive and present at the time of the US Civil War, and WWII. Abraham Lincoln was president at the time of the US Civil War, and Franklin D. Roosevelt was president at the time of WWII.

President Abraham Lincoln opposed the Confederacy and its bid for secession from the Union, in the 1860's. He opposed secession with these arguments: He argued that the states could not separate

physically, that secession was illegal. If he allowed secession, the government would decline into anarchy, and that Americans are friends of one another and not enemies. That a successful secession would prove that the world's only democracy was not viable—that a government of the people is not viable.



Considering the context of the world's political climate around the year 1860, the question of a government of, by and for the people surviving, was President Lincoln's strongest argument. The US democracy at the time was a fledgling experiment in self-government. At the time, authoritarian governments were the norm. The USA and France were the only two governments which had tried democracy in the 1700's. And, in France, Napoleon rose to power as a dictator out of the ashes of the French Revolution.

Hence, the USA has always since its inception, been a beacon of self-government. It has stood as an example to the world that democracy can work. So, one could understand why President Lincoln was so adamant about its preservation.

So, President Lincoln wanted to preserve democracy and it was his strongest argument. What was President Roosevelt's argument against the Nazis in WWII?

President Roosevelt lived at the time of an isolationist foreign policy. Isolationists argued that the USA should not get involved in the affairs of foreign powers, but should concentrate on domestic matters. Yet, in an increasingly interconnected world, the security of the United States could be put at risk from factors occurring overseas. Fascist



World War 2 Soldiers with Captured Nazi Flag

terror could in fact reach overseas, and threaten American freedom. Fascism was, according to President Roosevelt, a threat to democracy itself—as fascism relied on the use of force and marshalled the forces of hate. President Roosevelt realized that people cannot be neutral when facing force and hatred.

President Roosevelt did initially try neutrality, but he increasingly could not deny that the USA lived in a world of neighbors. In the end, neutrality failed, and the USA had to deal with the “world of neighbors.”

How can we apply the argument to preserve democracy, as President Lincoln proposed, to today's political climate?

President Trump has taken many actions against democracy. He has turned away immigrants and placed immigrant children in cages. He has labeled immigrants as criminal and denied the human rights and equality of Black and Brown people, too. His most recent transgression is against the constitutional rights of protesters to seek redress from the government for grievances. In this manner, he



employed unmarked militarized federal police to the streets of Portland, in the name of “law and order”, to quell protests. He also undoubtedly has publicly shown admiration for dictators such as Putin of Russia.

His actions over the last four years have been increasingly authoritarian. Because of this, his actions have threatened our democracy. He has to be confronted because, as President Lincoln stated “a divided house cannot stand.” Just as a country half-free and half-slave could not stand, so those who believe in democracy and those who believe in dictatorship cannot reconcile. A democracy gains its power from the consent of the governed. A dictatorship makes no pretense to care about the consent of the governed.

Can fascism still enslave Americans and threaten our freedom by marshalling the use of force and hatred?

Fascism still threatens our freedom whenever we are subjected to force and hatred, and when human rights are threatened. Without the guarantees for human rights found in the US Constitution, the American people face a very real threat to our freedom.



Some of President Trump's use of force and hatred have been mentioned, in the previous paragraph.

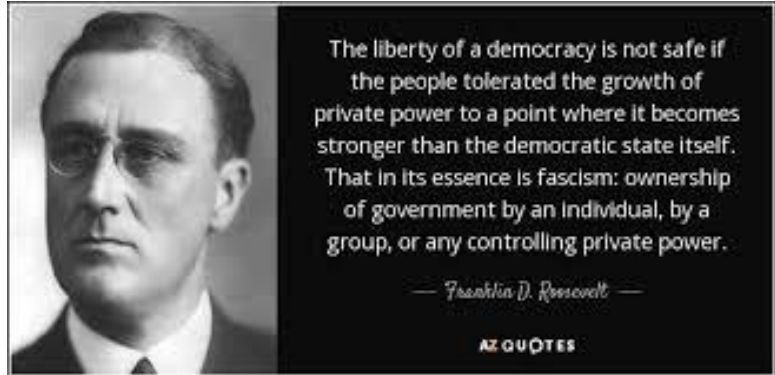


Additionally, his complete lack of diplomacy when dealing with foreign powers is important to consider here, because not only does he take a position of force and hatred domestically, but he also takes a position of force and hatred against

other countries. For example, he has called COVID-19, the “Kung-flu”, and he has levied really unnecessary tariffs against China as well. He has also called certain Brown and Black countries, “shit hole” nations, previously.

This is important here, because President Trump has no respect for his neighbors in the world. Instead of working with his neighbors, he has shown the force and hatred which has made it impossible for the world to remain neutral.

So, the people of the USA and the world have two ideas to consider. The first is the preservation of democracy, and the second is the



engagement in a world of neighbors. In order to preserve democracy and to fight force and hatred, no one can remain neutral.

Unfortunately, people have to take sides. Democracy and dictatorship cannot exist side by side in the same nation, and the rest of the world cannot turn a blind eye, either. So, the imperative here, is to continue to fight for democracy, for our neighbors, and against dictatorship.

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Announcements



National Summit "Protecting America's Vote:

Our March to the Ballot Box"

Thursday, August 6th – 8th

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

August Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 12th – 6:30 pm - Zoom

General Body Meeting: Don't Forget The Judges!

**Hosted by LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg
County and Keep Judge Rex Marvel**

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 AT 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM

Confirmed Speakers:

C. Renee Little, Candidate(Seat 10, NC District 26 Court Judge)

Judge Rex Marvel (Seat 9, NC District 26 Court Judge)

Tickets

Tickets: LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg County FB Page.

Announcements



Women Warriors Series

DWMC

Wednesday, August 26th

7:00 PM - Zoom

Special Guest: Susan Rodriguez McDowell



Please submit your group events to donnaMarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery!



Coalition of United Progressives Char-Meck

"Buy Black" Initiative

Coalition of United Progressives
CharMeck

**LIFT EVERY
VOICE
AND SING**

"BUY BLACK"

*"Fight Systemic Racism!
Invest in the
Black Community!!!"*


<https://coalitionofunitedprogressivescharmek.wordpress.com>
coalitionofunitedprogressives@gmail.com
[@progressivesunited](https://www.facebook.com/progressivesunited)


A Voter Education Forum

AMERICAN AMERICAN CAREERS United
Saturday, August 8th
10:00am - 12:30pm
Mecklenburg County, NC

**LIFT EVERY VOICE
A VOTER EDUCATION FORUM**

HOSTS :

 **Rev. Glencie Rhedrick**
Chair of Social Justice

 **Collette Alston**
President AAC-MCDP

VOTE

Hosted by AAC-MCDP
AND UMBA

ZOOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Learn about 2nd Chance Act, Covid-19 Updates, Absentee Ballots, Census completion, and Mecklenburg County Voter Education.

Follow this Link:
<https://bit.ly/2BvXKqj>

VOTE. YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley