

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize this monumental occasion in Leonard's life. May he have a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIE MAUDE ATKINSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Willie Maude Atkinson.

Willie Maude Atkinson was born on August 20, 1919 to Maude and Will Bates of Hobson City, Alabama. She attended the Calhoun County Training School (formerly C.E. Hanna Elementary School and currently Hobson City Hall), and has been a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church since 1930.

In 1942, Willie Maude married Clyde R. Atkinson. Clyde passed away in 1988. They were blessed with three children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. She is the oldest citizen born in Hobson City, and the oldest member of the Priscilla and Aquila Order of the Eastern Star.

In the early 1940s, Willie Maude was hired by Howard and Katherine Bentley to assist with the care of their seven children while Mr. Bentley was serving overseas during World War II. The Bentley children and grandchildren considered her a "second mother and grandmother." She remained employed by them until her retirement in the late 1990s. She also assisted the Bailey, Dewberry, Dumas and Pyles families with home care.

Willie Maude Atkinson has positively influenced many lives in her lifetime. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her family and her "adopted" families. Her love and wisdom have been passed on for several generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Willie Maude Atkinson a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING TUNISIAN PRESIDENT BEJI CAID ESSEBSI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the United States today stands in solidarity with the noble people of Tunisia as they mourn the passing of their first democratically elected president, Beji Caid Essebsi.

The world will never forget President Essebsi's remarkable stewardship of Tunisia's democratic transition after the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. He was the right man at the right time: a seasoned politician for more than 60 years, President Essebsi was the only Tunisian politician to hold political office in the new democracy as well as throughout dictatorships of Habib Bourguiba and Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. A statement issued by the Tunisian government upon President Essebsi's passing rightly called him one of Tunisia's "greatest

men and one of those who contributed the most to building it."

Tunisia flowered into the model democracy borne out of the Arab Spring in part due the commitment of Tunisians like President Essebsi to realize the dream of Tunisian democracy. Despite being an ardent secularist who championed the rights of women, President Essebsi was also always ready to engage all elements of Tunisian society, including the Islamists, precisely because he believed that all Tunisians have a right to political participation.

As the Tunisian people mourn this great loss, the people of the United States stand with them, ready to lend a helping hand to overcome this next challenging chapter. We send our heartfelt condolences to President Essebsi's family and the Tunisian people. I have no doubt that the people of Tunisia will honor the legacy of President Essebsi's life through their continued awe-inspiring dedication to democracy and the rule of law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 499.

CONGRATULATING NANCY LACEWELL ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Lacewell on her retirement. Since 1999, Nancy has served as the Director of Government and Community Affairs at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky. She has been a tremendous asset both to the American Printing House for the Blind and the United States Congress. Nancy has been a fixture on Capitol Hill for more than two decades, serving as a valuable resource for members and staff on both sides of the aisle. A tireless advocate, Nancy has educated Members of the House and Senate on the unique needs of people who are blind and visually impaired, informing us on the latest technological advances available to that population. She was instrumental in establishing and coordinating the National Prison Braille Network, a partnership with the Printing House and more than 35 U.S. prisons offering offenders an opportunity to learn braille. Through Nancy's hard work the program has been a major success, to the point where many of the textbooks for blind school students are now transcribed through the prison braille program.

Nancy received her Masters of Arts in French Language and Literature from the University of Louisville. In her retirement, I hope that she will be able to capitalize on those skills to travel to France and other destinations, as well as enjoy life with her husband Rick; her children Jeff, Corrine, and JP; loved

ones; and friends. I thank Nancy for being an advocate, an ally, and source of inspiration for me and for all who will follow in your footsteps. I wish them all the best in a much deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICKY STEELE-BODGER

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting legacy of Micky Steele-Bodger, who passed away on May 9th at the age of 93. Micky was a larger than life figure in the Rugby world for over 6 decades. He is widely revered and beloved for his immense contribution to the game and the mentorship he provided to several generations of young players and administrators.

Born on September 4, 1925 in Tamworth, England to Henry William and Kathrine nee Macdonald, Micky Steele-Bodger discovered his passion for Rugby at a young age.

He rose to prominence on the pitch while attending Cambridge University. As the captain of the team, Micky twice played in the famous "Varsity Match" between Cambridge and Oxford—a tradition dating back to 1872. In the classroom, he followed in his Father's footsteps by pursuing a veterinary degree.

Shortly after Cambridge, Micky earned himself a spot on the English national team—playing in 9 matches from 1946 to 1948. Although he had a relatively small frame and was only 5' 8", Micky's ruthless determination, versatility on the pitch, and deep knowledge of the game set him apart from many of his competitors.

Unfortunately, his promising career came to an abrupt end due to a bad knee injury when he was only 24 years old. Despite no longer being able to compete on the pitch, Micky was not prepared to walk away from the game he loved. So he promptly transitioned to the administrative and coaching side of the sport, where he went on to make his most significant and lasting impact.

In 1973, Micky was elected as President of the Rugby Football Union and in 1981 he became Chair of the International Rugby Board. Seven years later, in 1988, Micky was selected as the 6th President of Barbarian F.C., an illustrious Rugby club based in Britain. During his 31 year tenure; he molded the club into one of Rugby's marquee organizations. He was regarded as an inspiration and mentor for countless young players, instilling in them the importance of class, sportsmanship, and work ethic.

While Micky will go down in history as one of Rugby's most important and impactful figures, he will also be remembered as one of England's greatest clubmen.

As the longtime Chairman and President of the East India Club, Micky mentored generations of young men. Micky introduced us to the pleasures and gentility of club life.

I will always miss my friend, Micky. But I will also always remember him fondly every time I walk through the doors of the East India Club.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY NELSON FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Timothy J. Nelson for his service as President of Northwestern Michigan College. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to educational excellence, Tim has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Serving as President of NMC since 2001, Tim has led the college through a dramatic transition and growth as it worked to provide its learners and communities with the skills, experiences and values that will help them to create social and economic wealth during their lifetimes.

In 2011, President Nelson and his wife spearheaded the Global Opportunities Fund, with the goal of providing opportunities for NMC faculty, students, and staff to engage in projects with international partners, exchange knowledge with countries around the world, enhance the learning of world languages, and improve communication across different cultures. The college has also developed global partnerships with educational institutions in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, India, and others—making NMC one of the premier community colleges for providing global experiences.

Under Tim's leadership, NMC has also been committed to helping Veterans achieve their goals, succeed in college, and move onto the next chapter in their lives. Additionally, Tim has worked to include faculty, staff, students, and the local community in conversations related to the future of the college, promoting a culture of inclusivity and success.

Outside of his service as NMC President, Tim has provided valuable support and expertise as a member and leader in the Michigan Community College Association, the American Association of Community Colleges, the Munson Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Traverse City Rotary Club, the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, and multiple other state and community organizations. Tim will retire on December 31, 2019, as the longest-serving President in the college's history. His impact on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Timothy Nelson for his 18 years of service as President of Northwestern Michigan College. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AUTHOR AND POLITICAL THEORIST OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN CONSERVATISM, DR. RUSSELL KIRK

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Russell Kirk, a political theorist, moralist, historian, and literary critic, in honor of the historical marker being placed at his beloved home and library in Mecosta, Michigan next month.

As a resident of Mecosta County and a Michigan native, Dr. Kirk led numerous seminars on political theory, culture and virtue while teaching fellows and students for over 40 years, a tradition that his gracious wife, Annette Kirk, still values and honors today through the Russell Kirk Center. Since his passing in 1994, his home has become an educational destination for continued interest in his work by students and scholars alike.

As the author of thirty-two books covering topics from political theory to cultural criticism, Dr. Kirk is considered one of the preeminent thinkers of his time. His first published book in 1953, *The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot*, is one of the most widely reviewed and discussed studies of political ideals in America. Along with his subsequent writings on the topic, Dr. Kirk shaped the modern ideas of American conservatism. As an elite scholar, Dr. Kirk shared his brilliance through his prodigious literary works and received one of our nation's highest honors when President Ronald Reagan conferred the Presidential Citizens Medal upon him in 1989.

Dr. Kirk found his true joy in addressing college audiences because he believed the key to the lasting success of conservative ideas rested on shaping the cultural and moral beliefs of the next generation. In his books, articles, speeches, and interviews, Dr. Kirk shaped the thinking of generations of conservatives around the world. His ideas have personally helped me in forming my own beliefs and it is a privilege to pay special tribute to Dr. Kirk and his legacy today.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored to recognize Dr. Russell Kirk's illustrious career and extend my appreciation for his hard work and dedication. The historical marker in front of his cherished home in Mecosta will help ensure his ideas live on for future generations.

RECOGNIZING RIDE4GABE FOR BRINGING NEEDED AWARENESS TO DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Representatives PALMER, SEWELL, KELLY (TRENT), KUSTOFF, COHEN, CRAWFORD, HILL, WESTERMAN, WOMACK, MULLIN, HERN, LUCAS, THORNBERRY, LUJÁN, BUCK, TIPTON, and LAMBORN, I want to recognize three men who will attempt to pedal their bicycles from Bir-

mingham, Alabama to Colorado Springs, Colorado between July 28 and August 3, 2019. Ride4Gabe IV, as it is called, will take the cyclists through eight states in seven days. The group plans to pedal 300 miles the first day followed by days of 234, 198, 206, 232, 232, and 76 miles. The final leg of Ride4Gabe IV will be from Pueblo, Colorado up to 14,115 feet elevation at the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs.

Gabe Griffin, a 14-year-old from Birmingham, Alabama, is the inspiration behind Ride4Gabe. After Gabe was diagnosed with Duchenne, his parents created the non-profit Hope for Gabe Foundation to raise awareness and support efforts to develop a cure for this devastating condition. Michael Staley (38) of Hoover, Alabama, and Wes Bates (24) of Nagoya, Japan, began Ride4Gabe in 2014 when they rode across Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Duchenne is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately 1 in every 3,500 live male births (about 20,000 new cases each year worldwide). Because the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily affects males; however, it occurs across all races and cultures and there are cases of females with Duchenne.

Duchenne results in progressive loss of strength and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for dystrophin. Because dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily damaged. The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues relating to the heart and lungs. Individuals with Duchenne typically live into their late twenties.

Building on the success of the first Ride4Gabe event, Payne Griffin, 23, of Washington, D.C. joined Michael and Wes for Ride4Gabe II in 2016 and the group pedaled across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. Brian Toone, 42, of Hoover, Alabama, dubbed his effort Ride4Gabe III as he competed, in the grueling Race Across America. Brian finished 3rd place overall as he traversed California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland in just over ten days.

The Ride4Gabe IV team will be live streaming their adventure online as they pass through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. As the riders tire and their muscles get sore, they will draw strength and inspiration from Gabe and the Duchenne community. Their hero, Gabe, would love to ride a bicycle with them but Duchenne makes doing so impossible. With our help, Duchenne patients like Gabe can continue to hope for a cure so they, too, can go on an epic bike ride or play baseball, football, or basketball with their friends.

On behalf of my colleagues representing congressional districts along the Ride4Gabe IV route, I am pleased to recognize Ride4Gabe IV. The awareness that will be raised through Ride4Gabe will lead to greater public awareness about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It is our hope that Gabe Griffin and every other patient who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy will soon have access to a treatment and ultimately a cure.