

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.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSORS BARBARA MCFARLAND AND MICHAEL WHITEMAN

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Professors Barbara McFarland and Michael Whiteman as they step down from the faculty at the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Their tenure has brought Chase bigger ideas, brighter days, and better futures for any student lucky enough to sit in their classrooms.

One of Professor McFarland's greatest gifts is to provide every student she encounters with the resources and encouragement to achieve their best work—in law school and beyond. After 15 years at Chase, she is retiring to continue her work inspiring young minds, this time with young, at-risk children.

I took a short quiz to celebrate Professor Whiteman's retirement and I scored a 6/10, which was pretty similar to some of my scores in his class! After 17 successful years at Chase, Professor Whiteman is headed off to a law school down the road. Professor Whiteman has been described by his colleagues as one of the most genuine and kind-hearted people they have ever met, and I truly could not agree any more.

I know firsthand that Professors McFarland and Whiteman's passion for supporting a student's success can be the definitive factor between giving up and getting a degree, and I am so thankful for the impact they had on my educational and personal development. Professors McFarland and Whiteman are about to begin new journeys for themselves, but they can rest assured that their legacies will live on in the Chase Law School community. I thank them for all they have done and wish them good luck in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF DEPUTY ALLEN KRAEGER'S RETIREMENT FROM THE WAUPACA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Deputy Allen Kraeger on celebrating his retirement from the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. His leadership left a major impact on Wisconsin law enforcement and is an excellent example of service to the community.

Chief Deputy Kraeger is an exceptional public servant who dedicated his professional life to upholding the law. Starting as Reserve Deputy in 1972, Chief Deputy Kraeger held positions as a Corrections Officer and Patrolman before beginning full time employment as a Highway Patrolman with the Waupaca County Highway Patrol in 1978. After the merging of the Waupaca County Highway Patrol and Waupaca County Sheriff's Office in 1983, Chief Deputy Kraeger was reassigned as a Patrol Deputy with the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Kraeger served in many roles during his tenure with the Waupaca County

Sheriff's Office. He was designated as the first Rapid Intense Specific Competencies Instructor, promoted to the position of Detective Sergeant, and appointed to his current position of Chief Deputy in 1996. Through all these positions, he exemplified a steadfast commitment to providing superior service and protection to the communities of Waupaca County.

During his time as Chief Deputy, Chief Deputy Kraeger was instrumental in promoting teamwork, communication, and strategy to combat controlled substance violations. He embraced the Office's membership and participation in the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force. He was also instrumental in the assignment of two full-time Drug Investigator positions within the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Kraeger was also a member of several professional organizations including the Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association, National Narcotic Officers Association Coalition, and Wisconsin Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Association, to name a few.

Chief Deputy Kraeger served with diligence, selflessness, and bravery throughout his law enforcement career. Waupaca County is fortunate to have officers like Chief Deputy Kraeger who exemplify and exceed their oath to serve and protect. I am proud to represent men and women with such commitment to their communities and our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Chief Deputy Kraeger for his service and dedication to protecting our community. I congratulate him on an exceptional 41-year career with the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office and wish him well as he marks the conclusion of an accomplished career.

LET ALL U.S. CITIZENS TRAVEL TO CUBA RESTORE THEIR RIGHT TO TRAVEL—H.R. 3960

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce today H.R. 3960, the Freedom for Americans to Travel to Cuba Act of 2019, along with my colleagues, Representatives TOM EMMER (R-MN), KATHY CASTOR (D-FL), RICK CRAWFORD (R-AR), BARBARA LEE (D-CA), DARIN LAHOOD (R-IL), JOSÉ SERRANO (D-NY), GUY RESCHENTHALER (R-PA), DONALD BEYER, JR. (D-VA), and DENVER RIGGLEMAN (R-VA). I'm also proud to stand with my good friend, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, who will be introducing this bill in the Senate on Monday with 45 bipartisan cosponsors.

This bipartisan bill addresses an issue I care very deeply about—the right of American citizens—my constituents—to travel freely anywhere in the world. Freedom of movement, freedom to travel, the basic right of any U.S. citizen to choose freely where they can go in this world has always been a fundamental part of being an American.

Foreign governments might choose to deny our citizens a visa. They might restrict where Americans can go when they arrive inside a foreign country. But the U.S. government and the U.S. Congress should not be in the business of imposing restrictions on our own citizens.

Yet this is what Congress has done to U.S. citizens when it comes to only one country for the last 60 years—Cuba.

Americans can travel to China, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Russia, Iran and Syria—each with human rights records arguably as bad or worse than Cuba's and, it should be noted, each of these countries also support Nicholas Maduro in Venezuela. And until just recently, Americans could even travel to North Korea.

This is an anachronistic policy, left over from the Cold War and proven to be ineffective at leveraging change by the Cuban government. The only people it harms are American citizens and those in Cuba striving to create innovative economic alternatives to state-controlled enterprises.

Ironically, continued efforts to further restrict the right of Americans to travel to Cuba have had devastating consequences for Cuba's fledgling private sector—the very people the United States aims to help—which had grown to be approximately 30 percent of Cuban economy as a result of more Americans traveling to the island during the last Administration.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the American people are our very best ambassadors; that they reflect the democratic values, curiosity, and innovation that make our country so great. Congress should not be in the business of denying them their own rights.

Congress stripped away this basic right, and only Congress can restore it. It's past time for us to do so. I urge all my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to cosponsor this bipartisan bill and ensure its passage in the 116th Congress.

I include in the RECORD an opinion piece by Chris Sabatini entitled, *Trump Doubles Down on Failed Cuba Policy*, which was published in The New York Times on July 24, 2019.

[From the New York Times, July 24, 2019]
TRUMP DOUBLES DOWN ON FAILED CUBA POLICY

THE CUBAN AUTOCRACY REMAINS A NAGGING REMINDER OF UNITED STATES IMPOTENCE IN ROOTING OUT COMMUNISM

(By Christopher Sabatini)

The Trump administration's effort to bring about the end of Cuba's repressive government by squeezing the island's economy promises only more suffering for Cuban citizens, who are already struggling under Fidel Castro's failed economic project.

The White House is hurting the very people—ordinary Cubans—it claims to support. Not only are their potential sources of independent income (and, with it, political independence) drying up, so is their access to food—and their hopes for the future.

For decades, the Cuban autocracy has been a nagging reminder of United States impotence in rooting out Communism. Washington's embargo on Havana was tightened by Congress in 1992 and 1996—with the unintentionally ironic titles of the Cuban Democracy Act and what's known as the Cuban Liberty Act.

This pressure has always come with tough talk from Republicans, who like to claim that the Castro government's time is up. John Bolton, the national security adviser, is the latest hawk to spew this empty rhetoric.

Yet more than 58 years of isolating Havana has shown that the strategy doesn't follow any logical theory of regime change, even if it plays well in South Florida. Isolation has only reinforced the Cuban government's effort to make its citizens economically dependent on the Communist state.