

who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Pastor Ulysses Ponder has given of himself to lead Poplar Springs Baptist Church these past twenty-seven (27) years; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Poplar Springs Baptist Church as a known crowned jewel in our district for years, enriching the lives of thousands; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community over the past twenty-seven (27) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder serves as a man of the cloth in the church, community and family; he is always teaching the Word and he puts the Word into action daily; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Ulysses Ponder for his leadership and service for our District as he celebrates his 27th Pastoral anniversary; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 3, 2015 as Pastor Ulysses Ponder Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of May, 2015.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND HAVEN VFW POST ON 10 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF RIB FEST

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 for their efforts to assist veterans and their families through their annual "Rib Fest" fundraiser event.

Celebrating its 10th year, the Rib Fest event brings together West Michigan restaurants to compete in an event that raises funds for veterans and their families as well as maintaining the group's individual VFW post.

The event's most significant community contribution is the Ward-Goff Scholarship Fund established by VFW members in honor of Elwin Ward and Richard Goff. The Ward-Goff Scholarship is awarded to a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a good-standing member of the Grand Haven VFW post. Each year the award is given in remembrance of these two American patriots who gave their lives for their country during the Vietnam War.

Through their events like the annual Rib Fest, or many other areas of community involvement, the Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 continues to prove to future generations the values that make America great. I wish the 2015 Rib Fest all of the best, and look forward to sharing a meal with our veterans.

RECOGNIZING NOAH MASIH, WINNER OF NATIONAL NUMBER KNOCKOUT

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Noah Masih, a 6th grader from Clearwater, Minnesota. Noah is a national champion, having recently won the National Number Knockout.

The National Number Knockout is a math competition for students ages 9–14, and competitors play to improve their calculating speed. The competition involves a board of 36 numbers and use of dice to create an additional variable. Noah beat out 15 other finalists to claim the title.

I am always awestruck by those who find their passion in numbers. Noah's feat is nothing short of impressive, and is a testament to a fantastic homeschooling program.

I know I speak for the 6th District when I say we are so proud of Noah and his accomplishments, and I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing what the future holds for this bright young scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Noah Masih on his success in mathematics.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LEMKE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellen Lemke of Bedford, Iowa on the celebration of her 100th birthday today, on May 18, 2015.

Ellen is a pillar of her community and has a legacy of service to others that we should all aspire to. She is still an active member in her community who volunteers her time at the local nursing home where, as she says, she likes to "read to the old folks." She also stays involved in her church and other community organizations like the Community Singers, a group that travels to nine surrounding communities to perform to nursing homes. She was awarded the 2013 Iowan of the Day award, an honor that is bestowed to Iowans who have truly made a difference in their communities. She continues to write a weekly news column for the local paper, the Bedford Times Press.

She has exhibited the integrity, Iowa pride, hard work and dedication that make all of us proud. She has left an incredible legacy to her family that includes her children Rita and Henry, and her community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ellen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Lemke on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I will be absent from the House May 18th through May 21st to attend my daughter's wedding.

TRIBUTE TO REV. NIOLENE A. DURHAM

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, twenty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ at Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, the Reverend Niolene A. Durham under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her inspiration, words of encouragement, tireless works, and outreach ministries, that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Durham is a spiritual warrior, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all she is a visionary who impacted and transformed our society as a whole by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with not only her Church, but with also our District and the world; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Niolene A. Durham for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 25, 2015 as Reverend Niolene A. Durham Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of April, 2015.

HONORING JOSHUE LEYVA FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO SERVING HIS COMMUNITY AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Joshue Leyva, a mature young pre-medical student. Joshue's talent, integrity, dedication and passion for community service are indications that he unquestionably will fulfill his goal of becoming a doctor and serve the underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Joshue, a second generation immigrant, is a shining example of how migrant families contribute to and make our great nation stronger.