

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.