

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.