

Rep. Rabhi offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 98.

A resolution to commemorate the bicentennial of the founding of the University of Michigan.

Whereas, It is with great respect that the members of this legislative body are proud to join with the citizens of Michigan in remembering August 26, 1817, as the historic occasion when the governor of the Michigan Territory, Lewis Cass, and the Territory's several judges enacted a bill to establish a University of Michigania, also called a Catholepistemiad in Detroit; and

Whereas, The University of Michigania was founded in 1817 as an intellectual concept conceived out of a friendship between President Thomas Jefferson and the man he appointed as the first judge of the Michigan Territory, Augustus Woodward; and

Whereas, The University of Michigan has more than 572,000 living alumni, including artists, astronauts, business and government leaders, entrepreneurs, humanitarians, and Nobel Laureates in economics, medicine, and science; and

Whereas, Michigan's alumni body is the largest in the world. Graduates have made an impact in all arenas, from public service (Gerald R. Ford, Raoul Wallenberg, Mary Frances Berry) and technology (John Seely Brown, Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, Arthur W. Burks, Tony Fadell) to the arts (James Earl Jones, Leslie Bassett, Gilda Radner, Darren Criss), sciences (John Clark Sheehan, Antonia Novello, Samuel C.C. Ting, Alexa Canady) and sports (Janet Guthrie, DeHart Hubbard, Tom Brady). Branch Rickey helped integrate major league baseball and William Mayo co-founded the Mayo Clinic. Perhaps the most unique alumni achievement was the all-Michigan crew of Apollo 15 in 1971, when astronauts left a marker establishing the first and only college alumni chapter on the moon; and

Whereas, U-M's first president, Henry Philip Tappan grounded the University's teaching and research in rigorous science and a cutting-edge observatory – a bold commitment that shaped all of American education, particularly graduate education. Tappan's vision led to Michigan transforming research with many pioneering moments in American higher education, including being the first university with a chemical laboratory (1856); first to own and operate its own hospital (1869); first public university with dental (1875) and pharmacy (1876) schools; first to teach aeronautical engineering (1914); and first with a program in human genetics (1940); and

Whereas, "The Victors," the University's fight song, was written in 1898 by student Louis Elbel after a rousing U-M football win. Considered by many to be the definitive fight song, "The Victors" was crowned "the best college march ever written" by legendary composer and director John Philip Sousa. The song connects fans with an intercollegiate athletics program that features the nation's largest football stadium, the winningest football program, the noted winged helmet, hundreds of Olympians and All-Americans, and 56 national championships; and

Whereas, Michigan's contributions to medicine and public health have saved lives and enriched communities. Alumna Alice Hamilton, the first woman appointed to the faculty of Harvard University, pioneered the study of occupational health and is credited with improving workplace safety. Dr. Aldred Warthin was one of the first medical scientists to make a persuasive case that cancer was heritable in humans. Dr. James Neel unlocked the genetic cause of sickle-cell anemia, and geneticist Francis Collins discovered the genes for cystic fibrosis and neurofibromatosis ("Elephant Man's disease"). Surgeon William Bartlett developed the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation technology known as ECMO that continues to save thousands of lives; and

Whereas, Education has always been a priority in Michigan and many of the state's public and private colleges were founded early in its history. Michigan's constitution was ahead of its time in the establishment of educational institutions, which were publicly funded by penal fines and fees paid for exemption from military duty; and

Whereas, The University of Michigan provides a world-class education to a diverse student body of more than 63,000 on its Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the bicentennial of the founding of the University of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we commemorate the strong 200-year relationship between the University of Michigan and the citizens of the state of Michigan and pledge to continue to support the University of Michigan and its many contributions to Michigan and the world.