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- THE NATION'S HERO -

CAPTAIN TOM MOORE

By: A. Humphires

Although reaching your 100th birthday is a huge – and rare – achievement, it is rarely celebrated by a whole city, let alone a whole country! However, today, a man who was unknown to the nation just three weeks ago, has celebrated his landmark birthday with the British public in incredible style!

In order to celebrate his one hundredth birthday, the army veteran - Captain Tom Moore – had decided to raise money for the NHS Charities Together by walking one hundred laps of his garden. His aim was to raise money for the NHS that we are lucky to have in this country. He had not expected to raise more than one thousand pounds; donations now exceed £30 million! As always, Captain Tom shows great humbleness when talking about his astonishing achievement. Rather than praising his own efforts, he said that everyone who had donated was "magnificent"! He went on to say, ""Reaching 100 is quite something. Reaching 100 with such interest in me and huge generosity from the public is very overwhelming."

Due to the self-isolation restrictions, which are currently in place across the country, Tom was unable to celebrate with his friends and family as he had planned to. Instead, he stayed at home with his daughter and her family at their home in Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire. Although the captain, who has been made an honorary colonel by the Queen, was unable to celebrate with his family, he still had a day that he is unlikely to ever forget! Cards to celebrate his birthday have been flooding in over the last few weeks; it is estimated that he has received over 140,000 cards, which are having to be sorted at a local school. At 08:20, Tom was treated to an RAF flypast featuring a Spitfire and Hurricane from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

On top of this, he has also received birthday wishes from a range of famous people, including Queen Elizabeth II and the Prime Minister – Boris Johnson. In his video message to Captain Tom, he stated: "Your heroic efforts have lifted the spirits of the entire nation; you've created a channel to enable millions to say a heartfelt thank you to the remarkable men and women in our NHS who have all been doing the most outstanding job."

As if that wasn't enough, Tom has also broken a World Record this week! When his single, 'You'll Never Walk Alone', which he sang alongside Michael Ball and members of the NHS, took the top spot last weekend, he became the oldest person to ever achieve a number one! It seems that Captain Tom Moore is an unstoppable force and perhaps we should all be inspired by his motto: "Tomorrow will be a good day!" Whilst the donations page will close tonight, Tom and his family want to reassure the British public that they can still donate directly to the charity via their urgent appeal page. For now though, I think everyone will agree that this tremendous man deserves a few days rest!

