

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1118

Honoring the life and achievements of John Archibald Wheeler and expressing  
condolences on his passing.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2008

Mr. FOSTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Science and Technology

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## RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of John Archibald  
Wheeler and expressing condolences on his passing.

Whereas John Archibald Wheeler was born July 9, 1911, in  
Jacksonville, Florida;

Whereas John Wheeler graduated from high school at age 15  
and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Johns Hopkins Uni-  
versity at age 21;

Whereas Dr. Wheeler then moved to Copenhagen to work in  
the field of nuclear physics with pioneering physicist  
Niels Bohr;

Whereas, while still in his 20s, Dr. Wheeler, then a Professor  
of Physics at Princeton, along with Dr. Bohr in 1939  
worked out the first explanation of how the newly discov-  
ered nuclear fission actually worked;

Whereas Dr. Wheeler spent the war years at Hanford, Washington working on the theoretical understanding of nuclear reactions that led to production of plutonium for the bomb dropped on Nagasaki and later worked on the development of the American hydrogen bomb under Project Matterhorn B;

Whereas Dr. Wheeler then returned to Princeton where, after discussion with Albert Einstein, he switched from the study of nuclear physics to working on extending the theory of general relativity, including in 1957 creating the concept of wormholes to describe tunnels in space-time and in 1967 coining the term black hole as part of the theory of gravitational collapse;

Whereas Dr. Wheeler was a visionary who could see farther on the horizon than most people by way of his physical intuition;

Whereas Dr. Wheeler was a beloved academic who trained some of the best minds in the next generation of physicists, a gifted communicator sometimes called a physics poet, and an active researcher for over 70 years; and

Whereas Dr. Wheeler was, in the words of Dr. Max Texmark, the last Titan, the only physics superhero still standing until the time of his death on April 13, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) honors the life and accomplishments of Pro-  
3       fessor John Archibald Wheeler and expresses condo-  
4       lences on his passing; and

5               (2) recognizes the profound importance of Dr.  
6       Wheeler's record as a pioneer in nuclear and theo-

- 1 retical physics and a long-time contributor to ad-
- 2 vancing mankind's understanding of the nature and
- 3 workings of the universe.

