



H.RES. 1118 – Honoring the life and achievements of John Archibald Wheeler and expressing condolences on his passing

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1118 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) on April 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Science and Technology, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1118 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1118 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the life and accomplishments of Professor John Archibald Wheeler and expresses condolences on his passing; and
- Recognizes the profound importance of Dr. Wheeler's record as a pioneer in nuclear and theoretical physics and a long-time contributor to advancing mankind's understanding of the nature and workings of the universe.

BACKGROUND

John Archibald Wheeler was born July 9, 1911, in Jacksonville, Florida and graduated from high school at age 15. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in physics from Johns Hopkins University at age 21. He then moved to Copenhagen to work in the field of nuclear physics with pioneering physicist Niels Bohr. In 1939 he and Dr. Bohr issued the first explanation of how the newly discovered nuclear fission worked.

In 1957, after being encouraged by Albert Einstein to switch fields from nuclear physics to quantum physics, he helped extend the theory of general relativity, by discovering the concept of wormholes to describe tunnels in space-time. In 1967 he coined the term "black hole" as part of the theory of gravitational collapse. He passed away on April 13, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.