

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOWELL OBSERVATORY

**HON. TOM O'HALLERAN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 6, 2019*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on May 28, 1894 Percival Lowell arrived in Flagstaff, Arizona Territory and officially began operations at his new astronomical observatory. This was one of the first permanent scientific establishments in the western United States and one of the most storied centers for scientific research and outreach in the world. As we celebrate Lowell Observatory's 125th anniversary this year, we not only look back to honor its rich heritage, but also look ahead to a future in which the sky is not the limit but the starting point.

Percival Lowell was the scion of a Boston Brahmin clan steeped in the traditions of public service and community leadership. His siblings alone included brother Abbott Lawrence, president of Harvard University for 24 years, and Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Amy. Percival Lowell established his observatory initially to study Mars and the possibility of intelligent life there. He transcended science into pop culture by writing several popular books and lecturing widely. His provocative ideas triggered much discussion and debate—both within and outside of scientific circles—about extraterrestrial life. This standard set by Lowell to not only carry out research but to share the wonder and awe of space with the public led to the observatory's dual mission of research and education.

Some significant contributions made at Lowell Observatory:

V.M. Slipher detected the first evidence of the expanding universe in 1912.

Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto in 1930.

At the urging of Lowell scientists, Flagstaff enacted the world's first dark skies ordinance in 1958. This laid the path for future regulations that culminated in the community's designation as the first International Dark Sky City, in 2001.

Flagstaff continues to serve as a model for dark skies protection.

The second class of astronauts, the so-called "Next Nine" that included Neil Armstrong, and Jim Lovell, visited Lowell Observatory in 1963 to learn about the lunar mapping efforts going on here. This was part of a training exercise in northern Arizona that proved an important step in preparing the astronauts for their missions to the Moon.

A team of scientists, including many from Lowell, discovered the rings of Uranus in 1977.

Using observations with several research instruments, including Lowell Observatory's Perkins Telescope, Vera Rubin and Kent Ford confirmed the existence of dark matter in 1978.

A team of scientists, including many from Lowell, discovered Pluto's atmosphere in 1988.

Lowell scientist Will Grundy served as a team leader on the New Horizons mission's 2015 exploration of Pluto. This mission returned stunning images of the only planet in our solar system discovered in the United States.

Today, scientists at Lowell use a variety of ground- and space-based instruments for research—including Lowell Observatory's flagship Discovery Channel Telescope, one of the most versatile telescopes in the world. Meanwhile, the visitor program welcomes more than 100,000 guests per year and in the fall will complete construction of the Giovale Open Deck Observatory, the first stage of a multi-year master plan that will greatly increase the observatory's educational reach.

In recognition of Lowell's heritage of science, education, culture, and history, the observatory was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 1965 and identified as an Arizona Treasure in 2005 by Governor Janet Napolitano. In 2011 Time magazine named it one of "The World's 100 Most Important Places." Also, Astronomy magazine Editor Dave Eicher recently nicknamed Lowell Observatory "America's Observatory" because of its "unique combination of astronomical history and famous discoveries".

### AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of H.R. 6, The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019.

ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (AJCU),

*May 31, 2019.*

Hon. HENRY CUELLAR,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CUELLAR: I write to you, an alum of one of our nation's Jesuit colleges and universities, in support of H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, as it was amended by the House Judiciary Committee earlier this month. This is important legislation that clearly reflects the values of Jesuit institutions across the country.

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) stated in 2016:

"Grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit mission, we are guided by our commitment to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice. We see our work of teaching, scholarship and the formation of minds and spirits as a sacred trust.

That calls us to labor for solidarity among all people, and especially with and for the poor and marginalized in our society. That trust calls us to embrace the entire human

family, regardless of their immigration status or religious allegiance. And experience has shown us that our communities are immeasurably enriched by the presence, intelligence and contributions of undocumented students, as well as of faculty and staff of every color and from every faith tradition."

That statement went on to reaffirm our commitment to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Likewise, its principles lead us to strongly support passage of H.R. 6, which would finally provide lawful permanent resident status, and a pathway toward citizenship for the Dreamers who are very much a part of Jesuit campus communities across the nation. The presence of those young people on our campuses has enabled us to come to know and admire them. They have long considered the United States their home and, in fact, many of them have hardly any recollections of the countries where they were born. These individuals are pursuing or have successfully completed at least two years of higher education, served in our military or been steadily employed.

Simply put, we cannot imagine not wanting these individuals to remain a part of our country. Under provisions of H.R. 6, those who qualify for the program cannot have committed a felony or other serious crimes and can pose no threat to national security or public safety. These individuals are contributing to our society and our economy. They work and pay taxes. Indeed, they have lived their lives as Americans, but with the exception of having the legal status that they well deserve. For too long, they have had to live with uncertainty. With your help, by voting for H.R. 6, Congress will have taken a major step to remedy that situation. Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. SHEERAN, S.J.,

*President, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.*

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, JOSEPH LEON MERRITT

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 6, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of World War II Veteran Joseph Leon Merritt. Mr. Merritt has always placed God and family first in his life, offering friendship and brotherly love to all those who crossed his path.

Mr. Merritt was born on May 27, 1919, in Sturgis, Mississippi. He spent his early life in Itawamba County with his parents, Frank and Lula Lee Merritt, and his seven siblings. After the war, Mr. Merritt moved to Louisville, Mississippi where he still resides to this day.

From 1942 to 1946, Mr. Merritt answered the call to serve our great nation in the U.S. Marines. Serving as a driver and bulldozer operator, Mr. Merritt rose to the rank of Corporal and was recognized for participating in actions

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