

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 485

Expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffrey Herbert, fondly known as “Mr. Wizard”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2007

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, and Mr. AKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

Expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffrey Herbert, fondly known as “Mr. Wizard”.

Whereas many citizens of the United States remember Donald Jeffrey Herbert as “Mr. Wizard” and mourn his passing;

Whereas Don Herbert was born in Waconia, Minnesota and graduated from the La Crosse State Teacher’s College in Wisconsin in 1940 where he trained to be a science teacher;

Whereas Don Herbert volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps and served our country in the Atlantic theater and

earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters;

Whereas Don Herbert developed the idea for science programming culminating in “Watch Mr. Wizard”, a live television show produced from 1951 to 1964 and honored by a Peabody Award in 1954;

Whereas the National Science Foundation and the American Chemical Society lauded Don Herbert and his show for promoting interest in science and his contributions to science education and has since been recognized by numerous awards;

Whereas an additional educational program, “Mr. Wizard’s World”, inspired children from 1983 to 1990 on cable television;

Whereas “Mr. Wizard” continued to serve as an ambassador for science education by authoring multiple books and programs, and by traveling to schools and providing classroom demonstrations;

Whereas educational research indicates that young children make decisions about future careers at a very early age and are influenced greatly by positive contacts with science and technology;

Whereas a strong education in science and technology is one of the building blocks of a productive, competitive, and healthy society;

Whereas “Mr. Wizard” encouraged children to duplicate his experiments at home, driving independent inquiry into science with simple household equipment;

Whereas “Mr. Wizard’s” dynamic and energetic science experiments attracted unprecedented numbers of children

to educational programming, even those who were disinterested or unmotivated in science;

Whereas Mr. Wizard Science Clubs were started across the United States and had more than 100,000 children enrolled in 5,000 clubs by the mid-1950s; and

Whereas Don Herbert will be remembered as a pioneer of commercial educational programming and instrumental in making science education exciting and approachable for millions of children across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its appreciation for the profound
3 public service and educational contributions of Donald
4 Jeffrey Herbert;

5 (2) recognizes the profound impact of higher
6 educational institutions that train teachers;

7 (3) encourages students to honor the heritage
8 of Don Herbert by exploring our world through
9 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
10 fields; and

11 (4) tenders its condolences to the family of Don
12 Herbert and thanks them for their strong familial
13 support of him.

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