

July 30, 1999

CONGRATULATING THE CHANDRA
TEAM AT MARSHALL SPACE
FLIGHT CENTER

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chandra team at Marshall Space Flight Center for their role in the successful launch of NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. When Chandra reaches its planned orbit in about three weeks, and first turns its instruments to the far reaches of space, NASA will have opened a new and exciting chapter in space exploration and space science. From this chapter, America will reap new and exciting educational, intellectual, and quality-of-life benefits that are critical to our Nation's future.

Chandra is 20 times more sensitive than any previous X-ray telescope, and together with NASA's other Great Observatories already in orbit—the Hubble Telescope for studying objects in space using visible light, and the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory for detecting mysterious gamma rays—this X-ray observatory will give us the most complete picture ever of our universe.

At the heart of Chandra are eight of the largest and smoothest mirrors of their kind ever created. Together, the assembled mirrors weigh more than a ton, and if the State of Colorado were polished to the same degree of smoothness that went into the manufacture of these mirrors, Pike's Peak would stand less than one inch tall. High-resolution cameras and other sensors complete the suite of hardware aboard the observatory, critical components of which have been exhaustively tested at Marshall Space Flight Center by the talented people of North Alabama. The technology and manufacturing expertise that went into constructing these instruments is no less riveting than the scientific observations that Chandra will make.

Just in building, launching, and operating the Chandra X-ray Observatory, we have added much to our store of knowledge about optics, engineering and design. What science will we learn when Chandra begins to open its X-ray eyes to space? Scientists stand to make fundamental advances in our understanding of many of the most puzzling features of the universe: black holes and quasars, the identity of "dark matter," and the very age of the universe itself. By looking deep into the hottest, most violent parts of the cosmos—providing us with a laboratory that could never be reproduced here on Earth—Chandra will reveal an entire new level of detail in the far reaches of space, and will take our minds where our feet may never have a chance to tread.

Mr. Speaker, I share pride in Chandra's launch and the excitement of discoveries yet to come with my friends and neighbors in North Alabama, with NASA, and with my colleagues in the House.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MR. JESSE LIM

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Jesse Lim, for his inspiration as a dedicated father and grandfather, hard-working businessman, and a model citizen of our great nation.

The third son in a family with seven children, he was born and raised in Toisan, China in 1921. He was fortunate to attend school in China. Jesse came to the United States in 1938, unable to speak a word of English. After being detained at Angel Island he joined his father and brother in Tucson, Arizona. Through hard work and determination and with the help of a wonderful teacher, Miss Marshall, Jesse was able to master the English language.

He met Mary Parker Lee in Tucson. They fell in love but delayed marriage because he was drafted into the United States Army during World War II. He rose to the rank of Sergeant. After the war, Jesse and Mary wed in 1946. They have three daughters: Jessica, Jennifer, and Janet.

Jesse and Mary so valued education that they made sure their children studied hard. They all did well in school, and all three attended Universities: Occidental College, the University of Arizona, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jesse and Mary had to work hard to provide for their family. Though Jesse was an educated man, he was also of Chinese heritage. Like so many in this country, he faced discrimination. There were few avenues a smart, handsome man could pursue, but with his beautiful and business-savvy wife, they built up a number of small businesses, most of them "mon and pop" grocery stores. Their first store was in Tucson, and they had several others after the family moved to Los Angeles, California.

As food is very important to Chinese families, Jesse and Mary made sure their family would never go hungry. By owning grocery stores, there would always be plenty to eat. To make ends meet, the Lim family at times live in the store. As the daughters grew older, they also worked in the store—cashiering, stocking shelves, and slicing bologna and cheese . . . learning the value of hard work.

But Jesse and Mary didn't just work all the time—although it was usually 364 days a year (the store was closed on Christmas). They made sure the family had some fun too. Every Sunday, they would go to Westlake Park, later re-named MacArthur Park or the Merry-Go-Round. They would eat homemade tuna sandwiches made with mayonnaise and sweet pickle relish. But they could never go to Griffith Park because the family car couldn't get up the hill. They would also get together with relatives where the adults would play mah jongh while the kids would watch TV. When the kids got old enough to drive, they would go bowling or do other recreational activities.

Jesse and Mary kept on working. In addition to grocery stores, they once owned a

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motel in Pasadena, California. They also owned a small restaurant/coffee shop in both Beverly Hills and the City of Orange.

Jesse and Mary were very loving parents. Jesse taught the kids how to swim and how to drive. But he couldn't teach Mary either one. She had to take private driving lessons before she could chauffeur the kids around.

Jesse and Mary were devoted grandparents as well. They were "Gung-Gung and Poh-Poh" to William, Ralph, Jesse, and Erin.

Jesse and Mary were also very conscious of helping the community. They loved the Lim Family Association. They made sure their kids, and later the grandkids, would go to the annual Chinese New Year banquet in Los Angeles, Chinatown and become part of the Association activities. Jesse led the campaign to raise funds which resulted in the Lim Family Association buying its own building in Los Angeles. Jesse served as the President of the Association while Mary served as English Secretary.

Jesse is admired by his friends and family, especially his fellow Lims. Jesse likes to talk, and he is fluent in Toisanese, Cantonese, and English. He is also a very funny guy. He has always been in high demand to serve as emcee on various occasions—birthdays, weddings, baby parties. At most Chinese banquets, everyone talks, and no one listens to the emcee, but Jesse could command the room. When Jesse talked, people listened. You could hear a pin drop. With a quick wit and a vibrant personality, he became known as the Chinese "Bob Hope." Unfortunately, his daughters couldn't always understand the intricacy of his jokes in Chinese, but the audiences always roared with laughter.

As Jesse and Mary grew older, they became active in senior citizens organizations, both in California and later in Tucson. Jesse, always the handyman, would buy things at the thrift store, fix them up, and give them to the senior centers.

One of the things Jesse is most well known for is his sense of duty and responsibility. When he married Mary, he became the man of the family, because Mary's brother Jimmy had died in service to our country during WW II. He became the father to Mary's sisters May, Ruth, Margaret, and Elsie. After his brother Roy passed away, and his sister Sophie's husband passed away, he became the patriarch of the family. He is "Uncle Jesse" to many, both blood relative or not.

After 49 years of marriage, Jesse had to say farewell to his beloved Mary on May 21, 1995. But with the support of his family and friends, he has survived.

On Saturday, July 31, 1999, there will be a dinner in Tucson, Arizona to pay tribute to Jesse and to celebrate his life. A large delegation from the Lim Family Association in Los Angeles will be among the crowd of 150.

It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional human being.