

presence mourn the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Dr. Thompson, or "Dr. T" as he was fondly known, was born on April 6, 1921, in Hallsboro, North Carolina. Upon receiving his degrees from both Duke University and the Duke University School of Medicine in 1942 and 1947 respectively, he completed his medical training and residency at facilities across the country, including in New Jersey, Texas, Massachusetts, and Arkansas. Dr. T also served proudly in the United States Army for more than ten years in the Army Medical Corps rising to the level of Chief of a Pediatrics Unit.

In 1957, after practicing in Virginia for two years, he moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, where he continued practicing pediatrics. It was in Northwest Florida where Dr. T would spend the next decades of his life continuing to serve others in the community. Whether it was through house calls, late night hospital rounds, or nights spent with ailing patients, Dr. T's commitment to bettering the lives of those around him never wavered and was evidenced through his kindness and the unmatched quality of care he provided to his patients.

Dr. T also lent his time and efforts to a myriad of medical associations, including the Florida Medical Association, where he served as both as Chairman and Vice President; Okaloosa County Medical Society, where he served as the organization's first president; and Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, where he served as President and Chief of Pediatrics.

In addition to his dedicated service and passion in the medical field, Dr. T was highly involved in public service. He served not only as the team physician for local junior high and high schools, but also was president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1967 to 1968 and a member of the Okaloosa County School Board from 1984–1989. However, many remember him for his leadership as Mayor of Fort Walton Beach from 1965 to 1966.

Throughout his life, Dr. T served his Nation and community with the utmost integrity and humility. He was truly a man of compassion who possessed a passion for serving others. He will be remembered as a dedicated public official, wonderful physician, and a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. His contributions to Northwest Florida and our Nation were truly exceptional and his legacy will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Dr. William Thompson. My wife Vicki joins me in our sincerest condolences and our prayers go out to his wife, Melba; son, Wes; daughters, Emilie, Helga, Kenya, Rhonda, and Karen; nephew, Roger; grandchildren, Robert, Britt, Kyle, Alex, Renee, Michael, Ryan, Kelly, Kaylyn, Avery, and Aspen; great-grandchildren, Katherine, Amber, Alexander, Zachary, Hunter, and Kai; great-great grandson Orion; sister, Hilda, and the entire Thompson family and friends. He will truly be missed by all.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LICK OBSERVATORY

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 9, 2013*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Lick Observatory.

On January 3, 1888 the Lick Observatory's great refracting telescope saw "first light." Its construction on top of Mt. Hamilton was made possible by a \$700,000 donation from James Lick. By many accounts the wealthiest man in California, Mr. Lick gave almost his entire fortune to advance science and public welfare. When finished, the "Lick Refractor" was the largest, most powerful refracting telescope in the world.

Today, it is assumed that an observatory should be built on a mountain. However, at the time most observatories were built in cities. It is easy to forget that when Mt. Hamilton was chosen as the build site, it was only speculation that the high altitude would reduce atmospheric interference, allowing for a clearer view of the night stars.

Having proven the theory correct, Lick Observatory set the standard for building observatories on top of mountains, at high altitude, and away from potential interfering light sources and pollution.

The Lick Refractor was a premier research telescope for nearly a century. Even now, this telescope is still used to wow visitors, to inspire scientific wonder, and as a teaching tool for local colleges and universities. While many scientific facilities of this age are no longer useful as tools of discovery, the Lick Observatory continues to upgrade its capabilities and produce ground breaking science.

The Adaptive Optics project uses a unique, deformable mirror to cancel out atmospheric interference. It is capable of achieving resolutions comparable to the space-based Hubble Telescope, but at a fraction of the cost.

The Lick Observatory also houses the Automated Planet Finder, with the goal of finding Earth-like planets located within 100 light years. In partnership with NASA, this fully automated telescope makes its own decisions on where to look in the night sky and is capable of determining whether an Earth-like planet has been discovered.

Even the 125 year old Lick Refractor is still occasionally put to use. In the fall of 2000, coupled with an automatic camera, it started photographing the star clusters in our galaxy. These photographs have provided valuable information for mapping these clusters' star members.

I wish to congratulate the Lick Observatory on its 125th anniversary, and commend not only its scientific achievements, but also its work in inspiring others to pursue the wonders of science.

HONORING SERGEANT JORGE DELEON, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 9, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Sergeant Jorge DeLeon, a brave soldier

who resides in my congressional district, for his exceptional service to his country, community and fellow veterans.

Sergeant DeLeon joined the U.S. Army in 2001. During his fourth deployment to Afghanistan in April 2004, the Humvee he was driving ran over an anti-tank mine. Sergeant DeLeon lost his right leg and had his left leg severely injured as a result of the blast. He underwent a long recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and now wears a computer-controlled prosthetic leg.

But Sergeant DeLeon's commitment to service did not end as a result of his battlefield injuries. Currently, he is employed by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (CSAH) as Director of the Family Support Network and CSAH Liaison to Brooke Army Medical Center. In addition, he serves as the National Spokesperson for CSAH to help to raise awareness for the organization. CSAH is committed to providing wounded veterans and their families support services to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

Sergeant DeLeon's personal bravery and ongoing efforts on behalf of his fellow veterans are commendable. I thank him for his dedicated service to our country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PECK PIRATES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 8-PLAYER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 9, 2013*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize the Peck Pirates High School 8-Player Football Team. The Pirates had what can only be described as a perfect season. The young men that make up the Pirates 8-Player team displayed remarkable teamwork which drove their memorable season home to Sanilac County, keeping the 8-Player trophy in a Sanilac County School since the inception of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 8-Player football sport in 2010.

The Pirates won the State Championship on November 22, 2013 with a decisive 67–32 win over Rapid River Rockets High School 8-Player Football Team, capping a perfect 13–0 season.

This championship game showcased the Pirates skills that carried them through the season. Their defense took charge executing key plays with tackles, sacks and a big interception before halftime. Their offense wasted little time getting points on the board, working together to complete drive after drive down the field. Both in defensive battle and offensively, the Pirates kept constant pressure on their opponent and making their claim to the trophy clear.

The Pirates proved they had the skills, teamwork and fortitude to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship! I am certain the community and the entire Thumb Region takes great pride in what these young individuals were able to achieve as a team.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all of the members of the Peck Pirates team. I