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HOUSE MEMORIAL 17

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Joni Marie Gutierrez

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 18, 2010 AS "PLUTO IS A PLANET IN NEW MEXICO DAY" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HONORING THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF PLUTO BY CLYDE TOMBAUGH.

WHEREAS, Dr. Clyde Tombaugh is best known for discovering the planet Pluto in 1930, but he also discovered and named a total of fourteen asteroids; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh also engaged in serious scientific research regarding unidentified flying objects; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 1949, Dr. Tombaugh claimed to have seen several unidentified flying objects near Las Cruces, stating "I doubt that the phenomenon was any terrestrial reflection because ... nothing of the kind has ever appeared before or since"; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh worked at the White Sands missile
2 range during the 1950s and taught astronomy at New Mexico state
3 university from 1955 until his retirement in 1973; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh died in Las Cruces in 1997; and

5 WHEREAS, approximately one ounce of his ashes is being
6 carried on the New Horizons spacecraft that was launched in
7 2006 and that is scheduled for a fly-by of Pluto in 2014; and

8 WHEREAS, Pluto was recognized as a planet for seventy-five
9 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Clyde Tombaugh's discoveries have shaped and
11 advanced the field of astronomy; and

12 WHEREAS, his enduring scientific accomplishments and
13 personal contributions shine brightly on New Mexico state
14 university as well as the rest of the world; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico is proud to recognize these
16 accomplishments and contributions; and

17 WHEREAS, thanks to Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, Pluto will always
18 be considered a planet in New Mexico;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 18,
21 2010 be proclaimed "Pluto is a Planet in New Mexico Day" at the
22 house of representatives in honor of the eightieth anniversary
23 of the discovery of Pluto by Clyde Tombaugh; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the family members of Dr. Clyde Tombaugh.

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