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Central New Jersey Recognizes WINLAB's 10th and Marconi's 100th

Mr. Speaker:

I rise today in celebration of Guglielmo Marconi's historic radio transmission from the North Tower of the Twin Lights Lighthouse in Highlands, NJ. WINLAB, an industry-sponsored wireless research laboratory at Rutgers University, is sponsoring a "Marconi Day" celebration at the transmission site in Highlands on September 30, 1999.

Marconi, the inventor of the wireless telegraph, was invited to America by James Gordon Bennett, the publisher of the New York Herald, to publicize the 1899 America's Cup Races and to demonstrate the wireless telegraph. The confident Marconi promised New York reporters that, "We will be able to send the details of the yacht racing to New York as accurately and as quickly as if you could telephone them. The distance is nothing." The first wireless messages actually did not report the America's Cup Races but rather followed the progress of Commodore George Dewey's victorious return from the Spanish-American War along the Hudson River.

The transmission between Twin Lights Beacon and the Navy's Great White Fleet on September 30, 1899 marked the first demonstration of practical wireless telegraphy in our history. Marconi became a national hero when the wireless telegraph, known simply as a "Marconi", was required on all sea-going ships and was responsible for saving many lives at sea, including 705 survivors of the Titanic. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909.

The centennial celebration features distinguished speakers, a reception and ceremonial re-enactment, and a celebration of WINLAB's 10 year contribution to wireless communication. A ceremony and re-enactment will take place at the Twin Lights above Sandy Hook. Antique radio equipment will be displayed at Twin Lights, which commands a magnificent view of Sandy Hook and the entrance to New York Harbor. The evening concludes with a river-view dinner in the town of Highlands to celebrate WINLAB's 10th anniversary.

Rutgers WINLAB, the Wireless Information Network Laboratory, is a particularly appropriate sponsor for this event. WINLAB is an educational institution committed to advancing wireless communications through education and research. For ten years WINLAB, founded by Dr. David Goodman, has been a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. WINLAB is renown for its role in technology creation, evaluation, education and information exchange. It serves private industry, government agencies, academic and standards organizations. As they share both significant anniversaries and missions, WINLAB honors Marconi for providing the basis for wireless communications and creating the very object of their research.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing WINLAB's commitment to Guglielmo Marconi's vision and continued contribution to wireless technology throughout the world.

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress