

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATORS GATTI, MILKOVICH, PEACOCK AND TARVER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD, for nearly 34 years of service as Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at LSU Health Shreveport.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD, for nearly thirty-four years of service as chairman
3 of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Louisiana State University
4 Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan came to the LSU Health Sciences Center to
6 serve as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and has remained
7 in that position until his retirement earlier this month; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan was named a Boyd Professor in 2002, the LSU
9 systems' highest designated professorial rank, and in the sixty-year history of Boyd
10 Professors, only seventy professors have reached this pinnacle of recognition; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan, a 1958 graduate of Jesuit High School in New
12 Orleans, Louisiana, is also the Willis-Knighten Endowed Chair of Microbiology, the first
13 endowed chair at the LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport campus; and

14 WHEREAS, during his tenure at the Shreveport campus, Dr. O'Callaghan developed
15 the doctoral program in microbiology and immunology and established the Center for
16 Molecular and Tumor Virology, known as CMTV, which was awarded fifteen years of
17 funding by the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources,
18 specifically receiving a five year \$4.82 million grant in 2014 alone to continue and expand

1 the CMTV facility; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan's contributions to research at the Shreveport facility
3 are extensive, including being the first faculty member to be awarded a COBRE grant,
4 provided through the National Institutes of Health to strengthen and support the institution's
5 biomedical research infrastructure, which supported the CMTV, and he has secured
6 thirty-nine million dollars in research funding which is more than any faculty member in the
7 history of LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport; and

8 WHEREAS, beyond the campus in Shreveport, Dr. O'Callaghan is involved in his
9 field of research on a local, national, and international level, serving two terms on the
10 Microbiology National Exam Committee and as an external reviewer of doctoral students
11 at several universities; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan has served on many national panels and study sections
13 for research agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the United States
14 Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, the American Heart
15 Association, and the American Cancer Society; and

16 WHEREAS, nationally and internationally Dr. O'Callaghan has organized meetings
17 for the International Herpesvirus Workshop and the American Society for Microbiology and
18 he was a founding member of the American Society for Virology where he served two terms
19 as program organizer and one year as president in 2000-2001; and

20 WHEREAS, while Dr. O'Callaghan credits his colleagues, students, and postdoctoral
21 fellows as essential to his accomplishments and he is especially appreciative of Dr. Ike
22 Muslow for recruiting him to continue his career in Shreveport; and

23 WHEREAS, Chancellor and Dean G. E. Ghali, MD, of LSU Health Sciences Center
24 Shreveport states that Dr. O'Callaghan is "an icon in our institution" continuing to cite his
25 work ethic, focus, love of students, and his brilliance, all of which "will long be remembered
26 and appreciated"; and

27 WHEREAS, in honor Dr. O'Callaghan's contributions and achievements in the
28 Shreveport institution, Mayor Ollie S. Tyler declared March 13, 2018, "Dr. Dennis J.
29 O'Callaghan Day" in the city; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan's nearly thirty-four years at Louisiana State

1 University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, encompassing ground-breaking research,
2 tens of millions of dollars in grant money received, and the expert guidance of thousands of
3 students, postdoctoral fellows, and medical residents has altered the academic and research
4 standards and facilities in the disciplines of microbiology and immunology at this institution
5 of higher learning and have left an indelible mark and a lasting legacy of the standards for
6 which he stood as chairman, accomplishments of which he should be justly proud.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
8 does hereby commend Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD, for nearly thirty-four years of service
9 as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Louisiana State
10 University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
12 Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan in care of LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

	DIGEST	
SR 60 Original	2018 Regular Session	Gatti
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