

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

A RESOLUTION

To commend Kylie Renee Walleser-Bush for her participation in the Pillow Pets project and her unselfish actions to bring comfort, good wishes, and encouragement to those children spending Christmas in the hospital.

WHEREAS, Kylie Walleser-Bush was born with a rare birth defect which led her to ultimately develop "short gut syndrome", a condition that causes her body to fail to absorb the nutrients necessary for her to thrive, and damaging key organ functions; and

WHEREAS, because of the effects of the syndrome, Kylie needed a triple organ transplant, receiving a small intestine, pancreas, and liver in a procedure she underwent on December 29, 2016, when she was only ten years old; and

WHEREAS, Kylie Walleser-Bush was able to graduate this month with her fellow sixth graders at J. J. Barron Sr. Elementary School in Pineville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Kylie's life in the hospital spanned her first ten years and in 2015 when Kylie was in the fifth grade, she and her fellow Junior Beta Club members were planning their pre-Christmas service projects; and

WHEREAS, Kylie decided to raise donations to provide children in the hospital on Christmas Eve with a "Pillow Pet", a soft and cuddly stuffed animal that, with its straps and velcro could be made into a pillow, bringing the promise of endless Pillow Pet hugs for each recipient; and

WHEREAS, because of her repeated lengthy hospital stays, Kylie was familiar with how lonely and scared children in the hospital can feel, even with the continual attention of their families and caregivers, so her project was to deliver Pillow Pets to ease the loneliness and the sadness of spending Christmas in the hospital, a very meaningful way of giving back to those whose situations were so familiar to Kylie; and

WHEREAS, while in the hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, dealing with her first small bowel transplant and the later rejection by her body, she made friends with children from other states who were a long way from home and feeling scared; and

WHEREAS, the parents of one of those girls began a foundation called "Ashley's Room" to help children like Kylie coordinate Pillow Pets projects, so Kylie had the perfect partner and Pillow Pets were delivered to children in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, at Christmastime 2015, Kylie's mother believed that their "Christmas miracle" had been granted, as Kylie was matched with an organ donor, and then state Senator-elect Jay Luneau, who had received the news that the millions of dollars for the medical bills would be covered by the Louisiana Medicaid program, could reassure the family that they needed to travel to Omaha for the transplant without worries about how the medical bills would be paid; and

WHEREAS, the success of that triple organ transplant has allowed Kylie to attend school, to graduate from sixth grade with her classmates, and move on to seventh grade; and

WHEREAS, Kylie's medical issues are not yet over and she will return to Omaha for further surgeries, but she faces that future with strength and a big heart; and

WHEREAS, clearly the love and care with which Kylie was showered by her caregivers, family, and friends have helped to produce a loving and caring child with empathy enough to look to others traveling the same medical path that she walks and to work to make those lives a little easier and happier, a gift that everyone is glad she is here to give; and

WHEREAS, such an act of kindness is not often the action of one in elementary school, but Kylie is a very mature twelve year old, and it appears she is destined to brighten the lives of those she travels with throughout her life, both comforting and inspiring those around her, whether with Pillow Pets or with her winning smile.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Kylie Renee Walleser-Bush for her participation in the Pillow Pets project and her unselfish actions to bring comfort, good wishes, and encouragement to those children spending Christmas in the hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kylie Renee Walleser-Bush.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE