

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Raj Letchuman on winning the Louisiana Student of the Year award.

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman is the son of Santhi and Rama Letchuman and a senior at Caddo Parish Magnet High School; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman earned a perfect score on the ACT and is an avid science enthusiast; and

WHEREAS, not only does Raj Letchuman excel in the classroom, Raj also serves his community through tutoring and volunteering. Raj also frequently volunteers at the rescue mission where he serves lunch and dinner to the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman also tutors students in a wide variety of topics ranging from math to English and preparation for standardized tests, including the ACT and PSAT; and

WHEREAS, as the communications chair of the teen advisory committee for the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, Raj Letchuman works with high school students from across Caddo Parish to advise community leaders on how to allocate time and money to improve mental health in Caddo Parish schools; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman is a member of the Caddo Parish Magnet High School mock trial team, acting as both an attorney and coach, in conjunction with serving as a defense attorney for the teen court program via the juvenile diversion program of the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman also competed as an attorney at the National High School Mock Trial Championship and competed at the National Science Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman is the president of the astronomy club and the world languages club in addition to being a Caddo Parish Magnet High School student ambassador; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman is a member of the Caddo Parish Magnet High School

Key Club and National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, among Raj Letchuman's numerous extracurricular activities, his favorites include participating in state science bowls, learning new computer programming languages, conducting independent biomedical research, and competing in biology olympiads throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman participated in the following academic competitions: first place in chemistry for the Caddo Magnet Science Fair and the regional Louisiana science fair, first place in the exhibit category for regional national history day, first place at the Louisiana State Mock Trial competition, first place at the Louisiana State Science Bowl, first place in computational biology at school, regional, and state fairs, and first place in biomedical and health sciences at the Louisiana State Science Fair; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman placed second in chemistry for the Louisiana State Science Fair and second in the exhibit category for Louisiana State National History Day competition; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman placed third overall at the Louisiana State Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and earned a one thousand dollar award for his achievement; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman served as the attorney general for Louisiana Boys State in 2022 and as one of two Louisiana senators for Boys Nation 2022; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman recently collaborated with Dr. Elahe Mahdavian, a biochemistry professor at LSU Shreveport and Raj's research mentor, for his research project entitled, *Identifying Promising Drug Candidates Against SARS-CoV-2 Using Computational Drug Repurposing Methodology*; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman has also published a research project entitled, *Targeting CaSR-GSH Interaction with Quinazolinone-Based Derivatives to Inhibit Angiogenesis*; and

WHEREAS, through his diligent study and hard work, Raj Letchuman recently qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair in Dallas, Texas, to be held May 14 – 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman is one step closer to achieving his dream of becoming an astronaut after earning a prestigious internship with NASA for the summer of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Raj Letchuman plans to continue his education this Fall at Yale University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Raj Letchuman on winning the Louisiana Student of the Year award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Raj Letchuman.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE