

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Tanner Ward for his exemplary compassion as a medical student, leader, and ambassador of LSU Health Shreveport.

WHEREAS, superior healthcare goes beyond the physical needs of patients by also serving their social and psychological needs; some individuals are gifted with the ability to see the needs of others even when those needs are not expressed; and

WHEREAS, Tanner Ward is an LSU Health Shreveport medical student from Utah; he recognized that pediatric patients needed a space while hospitalized to relax and take their mind off their illness, and he began various community outreach programs to address his concerns; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward co-founded the Pars for Peds Golf Tournament in 2021 with a goal of raising sufficient funding to create a teen space at the Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport St. Mary Medical Center; the inaugural Pars for Peds golf tournament raised the funding required to create a designated teen lounge featuring video and arcade games; and

WHEREAS, Pars for Peds, which is held annually, currently has a goal of renovating a vacated atrium space at St. Mary Medical Center to incorporate a putting green that allows pediatric patients to feel like they are outdoors while getting exercise and sunshine indoors; the atrium now offers evening movies for hospitalized pediatric patients and their families and care givers; and

WHEREAS, Tanner also started a Cancer Survivor Walking Group for cancer patients at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center in Shreveport to address their need for social interaction and development of healthy lifestyles; the first Cancer Survivor Walk in 2021 attracted over one hundred walkers and a dozen vendors who provided goods and services to cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, the funds raised by the Cancer Survivor Walk supports the Cancer Survivorship Program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center which provides mental health coaching, meal prep and nutritional guidance, massage therapy, membership at the YWCA Thriver's Program, and wellness coaching; and

WHEREAS, the third annual Cancer Survivorship Walk-a-thon welcomed over two hundred fifty attendees including cancer survivors from throughout north Louisiana, their families, caregivers, medical and allied health students, and staff of area cancer centers; and

WHEREAS, Tanner Ward, who will receive a medical doctorate degree on May 18, 2024, has proven himself to be an exemplary medical student, leader, and ambassador of LSU Health Shreveport by caring for patients beyond their physical needs and will undoubtedly be a remarkable physician.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tanner Ward for his exemplary compassion as a medical student, leader, and ambassador of LSU Health Shreveport and does hereby extend sincere gratitude to Mr. Ward for his remarkable leadership and organizational skills which have resulted in countless positive impacts on pediatric cancer patients and their families.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES