

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY SENATORS PRESSLY AND JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion, leadership, and organizational skills, and his commitment to enhance the lives of the patients he encounters.

WHEREAS, healthcare at its best goes beyond the physical needs of patients by ministering to their social and psychological needs; and

WHEREAS, some individuals are gifted with the ability to anticipate the needs of others even when those needs are not expressed; and

WHEREAS, Tanner Ward a Shreveport medical student from Utah began his community outreach in north Louisiana with the recognition that pediatric patients needed a space while hospitalized to relax and take their mind off their illness and often their pain; and

WHEREAS, this compassionate, energetic medical student 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 has continued to be held annually and is now fulfilling the goal of updating a vacated atrium space at St. Mary Medical Center with a putting green that allows pediatric patients to feel like they are outdoors while getting exercise and sunshine indoors; and

WHEREAS, the atrium now offers evening movie viewing with extensive lounging sofas and chairs creating an enjoyable experience for hospitalized pediatric patients and their families and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, this patient-focused student subsequently started a Cancer Survivorship Walking Group for cancer patients at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center in Shreveport to address their need for social interaction and development of a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Survivor Walking Group showed such a positive impact on the patients that it launched the return of an annual Cancer Survivorship Walk in northwest Louisiana in 2021, which had not been held in the previous seven years; and

WHEREAS, the first Cancer Survivor Walk in 2021 attracted over 100 walkers and a dozen vendors who provided goods and services to cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, the funds raised through sponsorships of the now annual Cancer Survivor Walk supports the Cancer Survivorship Program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center providing 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 Walkathon, held on April 13, 2024, welcomed over 250 attendees including cancer survivors from throughout north Louisiana, their families, caregivers, medical and allied health students, and staff of area cancer centers further demonstrating the need and growth of this event started by this insightful, empathetic LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine student; and

WHEREAS, Tanner Ward, who will receive his Doctor of Medicine 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 Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion, leadership, and organizational skills resulting in countless pediatric and cancer patients and their families being positively impacted by his efforts and his commitment to enhance the lives of the patients he encounters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tanner Ward in appreciation of his service and commitment to others.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE