

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATORS LONG, GATTI, MILKOVICH, PEACOCK AND TARVER AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, COX, GLOVER, JENKINS, MCFARLAND, JIM MORRIS, REYNOLDS AND SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend James K. Elrod, the Willis-Knighton Health System and the staff of the system on their efforts to become a superior cancer treatment provider and a source for exceptional healthcare in Northwest Louisiana and beyond.

WHEREAS, James Elrod was hired as the hospital administrator for the Willis-Knighton facility in April 1965 and set about making this facility a valuable asset to be used to improve the health of those in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Elrod arrived at Willis-Knighton he found a struggling sixty-five bed hospital much in need of the energetic leadership that he could provide; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Willis-Knighton has expanded the original hospital, developed three satellite hospitals and established a regional physician network comprised of three hundred employed physicians that are all focused on bringing better care and new technologies to the citizens of Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the network of healthcare providers and facilities operated by Willis-Knighton also include a hospital-owned health maintenance organization and the state's largest retirement community, The Oaks of Louisiana, both of which are focused on providing a continuum of exceptional care to the patients; and

WHEREAS, a focus of Willis-Knighton and its satellite facilities has been to continuously improve the care and outcomes for cancer patients treated by this health system and to offer state-of-the-art care close to home for many in this largely rural area of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a part of this effort to improve cancer care is the Willis-Knighton

Cancer Center which offers the most advanced form of cancer fighting technology in the world, which is known as proton therapy; and

WHEREAS, this therapy involves the use of a pencil-width beam of protons to perform Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy, a form of treatment that pinpoints the areas of tumors and radiates them without harming or involving surrounding healthy tissue; and

WHEREAS, Willis-Knighton has installed the Proteus One, the first compact intensity modulated proton therapy system, and the advantages for their patients included having world class treatment available near their home towns, while at the same time having access to the most advanced technology, the proton beams, which deliver high doses of radiation to destroy cancer cells, often reducing the recurrence rates for many cancers; and

WHEREAS, other advantages of the noninvasive nature of this therapy may reduce the usual side effects of radiation treatment, patients treated with proton therapy may have increased tolerance for chemotherapy, and perhaps most importantly, patients can maintain their current quality of life during and after treatment; and

WHEREAS, in its quest to provide twenty-first century care to the entire population in the Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, known as the Ark-La-Tex area, Willis-Knighton took an approach beyond cancer treatment and established both the John C. McDonald Regional Transport Center, which has joined with the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency to work toward improving the process of organ donation and the Innovation Center, which sets the hospital apart as the most forward-thinking healthcare provider in the area; and

WHEREAS, through the continual advancement of treatments, especially in cancer patients, the outreach of the facility system to serve those beyond the Shreveport-Bossier City area, and the forward looking culture at the Willis-Knighton Health System have brought first class healthcare to the citizens across Northwest Louisiana, improving healthcare outcomes and delivering a better quality of life for those treated through the system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend James K. Elrod, the Willis-Knighton Health System, and the staff of the system on their efforts to become a superior cancer treatment provider and a source for exceptional healthcare in Northwest Louisiana and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to James K. Elrod on behalf of the staff of the Willis-Knighton Health System.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES