

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 141

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A RESOLUTION

To commend World War II American war hero and scientific researcher extraordinaire Dr. William Hansel posthumously on this Memorial Day.

WHEREAS, Dr. William Hansel, a Baton Rouge resident at the time of his death on January 2, 2017, began his remarkable scientific career at Cornell University and ended almost seven decades later, was continuing his stellar research at LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge with unabated enthusiasm and keen intellect that were his hallmarks; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel was born September 16, 1918, in Vale Summit, MD, was a graduate of the University of Maryland, and earned his Master of Science and PhD degrees from Cornell University; and

WHEREAS, his life plans, like most of his contemporaries, was interrupted by World War II, he served with great distinction with General George Patton's Ghost Corps during the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded two Purple Hearts for his heroism; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel, lauded multiple times during his professional career for his achievements, considered "dashing through the Rhine River" during his military service his proudest accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Dr. Hansel joined the faculty of Cornell University and after years of service served as Chair of the Department of Physiology and the distinguished Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Animal Physiology before retiring; and

WHEREAS, although he left Cornell University after four decades on its faculty, retirement from his active and productive life as a research scientist was never a consideration for Dr. Hansel, in 1990 he joined Louisiana State University as the Gordon Cain Professor where he continued his research in reproductive biology; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 he became one of the first scientists at the then-new Pennington Biomedical Research Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 his wife, Milbrey, who predeceased him in 1997, was diagnosed

with ovarian cancer, prompting Dr. Hansel to immediately begin applying his research expertise to finding a new treatment for cancer; and

WHEREAS, he recalled that shortly thereafter he was attending a conference in Poland where a talk on the distribution of receptors for pituitary hormone in cancer made him realize that the scientific research at Pennington Biomedical held the potential answer; and

WHEREAS, that realization was the impetus for his work over the next several decades as Dr. Hansel and his laboratory worked to develop a new class of cancer drugs to target and destroy primary cancer tumors as well as the sites to which it spread; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel is the originator and coinventor of Cationic Lytic Peptide Technology, a new class of cancer drugs that target and destroy human breast, ovarian, prostate, and testicular cancer cells currently being tested in clinical trials at MD Anderson Cancer Center; and

WHEREAS, his most recent research was focused on therapies for prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, during his long and storied academic career, Dr. Hansel received many awards including the 2014 Renowned Physiologist accolade from the American Physiology Society; and

WHEREAS, he was not only a superior research scientist, he also was a noted teacher who mentored more than 100 pre- and postdoctoral students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel published more than 300 scientific articles; and

WHEREAS, his passion for his work was demonstrated daily to his many colleagues at Pennington Biomedical Research Center where he continued to maintain office hours as recently as December 2016; and

WHEREAS, on January 2nd at the age of 98, Dr. Hansel passed away, but the legacy of his public service through scientific contributions will continue to make a difference in the lives of individuals with cancer and other chronic diseases in perpetuity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends World War II American war hero and scientific researcher extraordinaire Dr. William Hansel posthumously on this Memorial Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses its sincerest gratitude to Dr. William Hansel for his great service to America through his military heroism, for his invaluable contributions to Pennington Biomedical Research Center's research and training programs, and for his life of dedication to public service through biomedical research.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE