

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend World War II American war hero and scientific researcher Dr. William Hansel posthumously.

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel served in World War II 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, 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, Dr. Hansel left Cornell University after four decades on its faculty, and in 1990, he joined Louisiana State University as the Gordon Cain Professor where he continued his research in reproductive biology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel in 1994 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, over the next several decades, 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 co-inventor 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, 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, Dr. Hansel was not only a superior research scientist, who published more than 300 scientific articles, he also was a noted teacher who mentored more than 100 pre-and postdoctoral students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel's 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 2, 2017, 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 House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature 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's research and training programs, and for his life of dedication to public service through biomedical research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Hansel's successors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES