

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Emilie Michelle Gibson.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the untimely death of Emilie Michelle Gibson of Bossier City, Louisiana, and to remember her contributions to others.

WHEREAS, Emilie Gibson was an energetic, vivacious ten-year-old filled with an exuberance for life that was infectious; her attitude affected every acquaintance in a delightfully playful manner; and

WHEREAS, along with her impish grin, Emilie had an immense engaging spirit; she was curious and outgoing; she was affectionate to a fault; and she was a fierce competitor; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Legacy Elementary School, Emilie always put forth her very best effort in class and participated in extracurricular activities like *Destination Imagination*, a state scholastic competition; and

WHEREAS, Emilie had an immense love of family; her parents, Trey and Candice, her older brother, Alex, her grandparents, extended family members, her many friends, and her beloved dog, Max; and

WHEREAS, she also loved swimming, dancing, watching Harry Potter movies, and wearing "crazy" hats shaped like animals, the sillier the hat, the better she liked it; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2016, Emilie was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma
2 (DIPG), a rare and highly aggressive pediatric brain cancer, a malignancy that develops in
3 the brain stem and affects the entire nervous system; and

4 WHEREAS, the survival rate for DIPG is less than one percent over five years and
5 the median survival time is nine months from diagnosis; and

6 WHEREAS, with extraordinary strength of will, Emilie survived fourteen months
7 post diagnosis; her medical regime included palliative treatment with radiation at
8 Willis-Knighton Cancer Center in Shreveport, St Jude Children's Research Hospital in
9 Memphis, and other speciality treatments centers; and

10 WHEREAS, Emilie faced every day as a fresh experience; it was something precious
11 to be savored and never squandered; she embraced each day as a new opportunity to fight
12 her cancer and she developed a mantra to keep her spirits buoyant, "Just Keep Swimming";
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Emilie Gibson was not defined by her cancer, she defied it with every
15 fiber of her being and she lived her life to its fullest extent; she shall be remembered for her
16 fortitude, her courage, her humor, and her sassy familiar demeanor; and

17 WHEREAS, Emilie touched numerous individuals during her ten years of life; she
18 inspired others to organize fundraising events to benefit DIPG, and she received copious
19 cards and letters of encouragement from strangers around the world; and

20 WHEREAS, May is National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; in recognition of those
21 affected by DIPG, proposed legislation would designate the seventeenth of May each year
22 hence as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day in Louisiana; and

23 WHEREAS, in memorial, Friends of Emilie Gibson and other organizations continue
24 to raise awareness and garner support for DIPG research; and

25 WHEREAS, Emilie fought the good fight and continues to help others affected by
26 this disease; it was her parents' wish that an anatomical donation of her glial tissue be made
27 for continued medical research to discover a cure for DIPG; and

28 WHEREAS, Emilie's legacy remains one of inspiration to us all, a reminder that
29 every day is a gift and a blessing, and no matter what circumstance may befall you in life,
30 "Just Keep Swimming".

