

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY SENATOR LONG

A RESOLUTION

To commend James K. Elrod upon being honored as a Louisiana Public Broadcasting Louisiana Legend.

WHEREAS, each year, the Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting honor the best and brightest of Louisiana's sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves in a variety of disciplines and have brought honor to the state; and

WHEREAS, James K. Elrod is one of five distinguished Louisiana legends being honored this year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod, is the chief executive officer and leader of Willis-Knighton Health System for fifty-three years and has the distinction of being one of the longest-serving hospital administrators in the United States; and

WHEREAS, he began his college education in Waco, Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baylor University in 1959, and upon graduation, he joined the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Mr. Elrod completed a residency in hospital administration at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, at which time he also attended Mississippi College of Law; and

WHEREAS, equipped with his degree in hospital administration and five years of post-graduate education and experience, in April 1965, Mr. Elrod was chosen to lead Willis-Knighton Memorial Hospital, finding a struggling sixty-five bed facility in desperate need of leadership; and

WHEREAS, since then, he has remained deeply committed to building an excellent hospital system dedicated to the service of its community and its patients, particularly reaching out to provide medical services to the underserved; and

WHEREAS, while devoting his professional efforts to the modernization and growth of Willis-Knighton, Mr. Elrod has given his time and attention to improving his community as a whole, including sponsorship of the Shreveport Symphony and Louisiana Public Broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, among his many honors, Mr. Elrod has been named one of the most influential people in the Arkansas-Louisiana-Texas region by the *Shreveport Times*, was honored by the United Way of Northwest Louisiana with the Clint Fant Award in 2011, and in 2012 he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Washington University; and

WHEREAS, as a leader who has impacted the state for many years, James K. Elrod is truly a living example of a Louisiana legend.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate James K. Elrod on being named a Louisiana Legend by the Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to James K. Elrod.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE