

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 93

BY SENATOR REESE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Ralph Michael "Mike" Hennessee.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of a great gentleman and family patriarch, Ralph Michael Hennessee, better known as "Dr. Mike", on May 9, 2021, at the age of seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mike was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on May 8, 1946, to Alford and Joyce Hennessee; and

WHEREAS, he always claimed he "was born in the wrong state" and was thankful when his family moved to Lawton, Oklahoma, when he was but six weeks of age, thus creating a loyal, lifetime fan of Oklahoma University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mike graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry in 1969, and then joined the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, while in the Army, he attended the basic and advanced dental courses at Health Service Command in San Antonio, Texas, and the Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, while serving in the Army, Dr. Mike completed two overseas tours, the first to Korea in 1969, and then deployed for eighteen months to Vietnam in 1971; and

WHEREAS, during his tour in Vietnam, he served in the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mike went on to receive his specialty training in pedodontics from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and Children's Mercy Hospital, which he completed in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, while stationed at Ft. Polk, and after serving ten years in the Army, he was honorably discharged and returned to civilian life, opening a private practice in Leesville; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, he proudly served the needs of the Leesville community and looked forward to each new day; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Dr. Mike celebrated fifty years of dentistry and continued beyond to further pursue his passion; and

WHEREAS, while he loved dentistry, to him it was but a means to serve, and he never stopped looking for ways to brighten the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mike was a member and deacon at First Baptist Church, a lifetime member of the Leesville Lions Club, the creator of Dentist with a Heart Day, a missionary with Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International, and a member of the Sabine Mission Team; and

WHEREAS, he was beloved by family, friends, and colleagues, and is remembered for his incredible commitment to his practice and his generosity to all; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Phylliss Bradshaw Hennessee; his daughters, Allyson Hennessee and Michaela Hennessee; present and past staff of West Louisiana Dental; and many extended family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, the memory of Dr. Mike will always remain in the hearts of his family and friends, who will forever reap the benefits of his lifetime of achievement; and

WHEREAS, those who knew and loved him will continue to swell with pride when they remember Dr. Mike as a positive force in his community; and

WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens, who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched with his truly inspiring qualities, and who is now terribly missed but will never be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Ralph Michael Hennessee upon the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its appreciation for Dr. Mike's enduring contributions, which shall long continue to be a source of deep honor for the city of Leesville, the state of Louisiana, and beyond, and does hereby pay tribute to his remarkable legacy, which shall forever remain

in the hearts of those who were touched by his humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Phylliss Bradshaw Hennessee.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE