

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize Dr. Ernest W. Kinchen Jr., a man of God who's life of service improved the quality of lives of many Louisiana's citizens while establishing a distinguished medical career.

WHEREAS, he was born to Ernest W. Kinchen Sr. and Edna Jackson, a deeply praying mother who's influence would be the wind beneath his wings, in Lafayette, Louisiana on October 20, 1939; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen's educational path included receiving a Doctor of Medicine with honors in Neuropsychiatry, Ophthalmology, and Pediatrics from Howard University in 1965 and an internship and residency in the Tulane and Charity Hospital System in New Orleans while serving as a captain in the United States Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, he has obtained board certification from the American Board of Surgery and a fellowship from the Fellow of the American College of Surgeons; and

WHEREAS, he is a past member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the Musser-Burch Medical Society, the Alton Oschner Surgical Society, and the Gulf Coast Vascular Society; and

WHEREAS, he has received a plethora of impressive appointments, awards, and honors throughout his medical career; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen Jr., a longtime Acadian doctor and African-American medical trailblazer, received the Louisiana CLI (critical limb ischemia) & Limb Salvage Club's Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen who has served the Acadiana area and the VA hospital in Alexandria for over fifty-two years, has broken through many barriers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen was the first African-American resident in the Tulane and Charity Hospital System, the first Dillard University Rhodes Scholar candidate, the first African-American doctor with privileges at Lafayette General Hospital and Our Lady of

Lourdes, the first African-American to serve on the board of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and also the founder of Pride Plaza, one of the first multi-specialty medical facilities on the north side of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, he conceived and initiated the Yearly Living Legend Program to provide scholarships and to inspire African-American youth to reach their greatest possible potential; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen says his legendary accomplishment was organizing and being the leader of the first college protest march against segregation, discrimination, injustice, and degradation in the deep South which captured the eyes of the nation and had the coverage of every major news network in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen has been described as "A living legend who is a pioneer, an outstanding servant, distinguished citizen, outstanding physician, humanitarian, trailblazer, and a great man of God with deep faith." by Dr. David Allie, one of the founders of the Louisiana CLI and Limb Salvage Club; and

WHEREAS, when asked about his distinguished life, Dr. Kinchen says "None of this would have been possible had my mother not prayed for a servant. Her prayers has given me the fortitude to continue to march toward justice, the breaking down of barriers, and the saving of lives as well as livelihoods."; and

WHEREAS, he says "Because God lives in my heart and inspires me through many trials, a servant lives in my heart."; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen, who is married to the former Miss Dillard University and Summa Cum Laude graduate Barbara Antoine with three children, Ernest, Kraig, and Chrys, often says the love and strength of his family also helps him through all the challenges and hardships he has faced across his career; and

WHEREAS, he urges everyone to operate from a place of love, not hate, because only then are we at our very best and able to reach our highest potentials in life by serving others and our Lord; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinchen often says "He believes that when we bury ourselves in the quest to make the lives of others better, the world will be a better place. As a servant such actions gives God the glory!"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize Dr. Ernest W. Kinchen Jr., God's servant who has contributed greatly to improving the quality of lives of many Louisiana's citizens while establishing a very distinguished medical career and does hereby record for posterity his accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Ernest W. Kinchen Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE