

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY SENATORS PRESSLY AND JENKINS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion, leadership, and organizational skills, and his commitment to enhance the lives of the patients he encounters.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion, leadership, and organizational
3 skills, and his commitment to enhance the lives of the patients he encounters.

4 WHEREAS, healthcare at its best goes beyond the physical needs of patients by
5 ministering to their social and psychological needs; and

6 WHEREAS, some individuals are gifted with the ability to anticipate the needs of
7 others even when those needs are not expressed; and

8 WHEREAS, Tanner Ward a Shreveport medical student from Utah began his
9 community outreach in north Louisiana with the recognition that pediatric patients needed
10 a space while hospitalized to relax and take their mind off their illness and often their pain;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, this compassionate, energetic medical student co-founded the Pars for
13 Peds Golf Tournament in 2021, with a goal of raising sufficient funding to create a teen
14 space at the Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport - St. Mary Medical Center; and

15 WHEREAS, the inaugural Pars for Peds golf tournament raised the funding required
16 to create a designated teen lounge featuring video and arcade games; and

17 WHEREAS, Pars for Peds has continued to be held annually and is now fulfilling the
18 goal of updating a vacated atrium space at St. Mary Medical Center with a putting green that

1 allows pediatric patients to feel like they are outdoors while getting exercise and sunshine
2 indoors; and

3 WHEREAS, the atrium now offers evening movie viewing with extensive lounging
4 sofas and chairs creating an enjoyable experience for hospitalized pediatric patients and their
5 families and caregivers; and

6 WHEREAS, this patient-focused student subsequently started a Cancer Survivorship
7 Walking Group for cancer patients at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center in Shreveport to address
8 their need for social interaction and development of a healthy lifestyle; and

9 WHEREAS, the Cancer Survivor Walking Group showed such a positive impact on
10 the patients that it launched the return of an annual Cancer Survivorship Walk in northwest
11 Louisiana in 2021, which had not been held in the previous seven years; and

12 WHEREAS, the first Cancer Survivor Walk in 2021 attracted over 100 walkers and
13 a dozen vendors who provided goods and services to cancer patients; and

14 WHEREAS, the funds raised through sponsorships of the now annual Cancer
15 Survivor Walk supports the Cancer Survivorship Program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center
16 providing mental health coaching, meal prep and nutritional guidance, massage therapy,
17 membership at the YWCA Thriver's Program, and wellness coaching; and

18 WHEREAS, the third annual Cancer Survivorship Walkathon, held on April 13,
19 2024, welcomed over 250 attendees including cancer survivors from throughout north
20 Louisiana, their families, caregivers, medical and allied health students, and staff of area
21 cancer centers further demonstrating the need and growth of this event started by this
22 insightful, empathetic LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine student; and

23 WHEREAS, Tanner Ward, who will receive his Doctor of Medicine degree on May
24 18, 2024, has proven himself to be an exemplary medical student, leader, and ambassador
25 of LSU Health Shreveport by caring for patients beyond their physical needs and will
26 undoubtedly be a remarkable physician.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
28 does hereby recognize and commend Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion,
29 leadership, and organizational skills resulting in countless pediatric and cancer patients and
30 their families being positively impacted by his efforts and his commitment to enhance the

1 lives of the patients he encounters.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

3 Tanner Ward in appreciation of his service and commitment to others.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

SR 67 Original

DIGEST
2024 Regular Session

Pressly

Commends Tanner Ward for his remarkable compassion, leadership, and organizational skills, and his commitment to enhance the lives of the patients he encounters.