

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Gary Lash upon his retirement as chief executive officer of the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana and to recognize his outstanding contributions to the Shreveport-Bossier community and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Gary Lash has devoted more than two decades of faithful leadership and service to the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana, transforming it into the premier community organization in the region; and

WHEREAS, Gary Lash accepted the position of chief executive officer of the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana in 2003 at a time when the organization faced severe financial hardship and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, through vision, determination, and faith in God, Gary Lash led the YMCA from severe debt and financial instability to unprecedented growth and success; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the YMCA of Northwest Louisiana expanded its reach and impact through the development and improvement of numerous facilities; and

WHEREAS, these improvements included the revitalization of the historic downtown YMCA, the construction of the BHP Billiton YMCA, the opening of the Lash Family YMCA, and establishment of the Caddo Parish Premier Park baseball complex; and

WHEREAS, Gary Lash consistently emphasized that the true mission of the YMCA is not merely the construction of buildings, but the building of people, families, friendships, and community bonds; and

WHEREAS, his leadership fostered opportunities for youth development, healthy living, sportsmanship, mentorship, and community engagement for countless children and families throughout northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Gary Lash worked tirelessly to ensure that the YMCA remained a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds and ages and continually promoted the values of faith, service, teamwork, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the YMCA became a true family legacy shared with his wife of forty-six years Renee, and their sons, Dr. Austin Lash and Dr. Tyler Lash, all of whom devoted years of service and involvement to the YMCA's programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of northwest Louisiana have greatly benefitted from Gary Lash's leadership, optimism, humility, faith, and steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life in the Shreveport-Bossier community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and honor Gary Lash for his exceptional service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the people of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana commends Gary Lash upon his retirement and does hereby express sincere appreciation for his many years of dedicated service, and does hereby extend best wishes for continued happiness and success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gary Lash.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE