

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Robert A. Barish, MD, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport, for extraordinary leadership which has resulted in improved academic accreditation and increased health care services for the populous of North Louisiana and the state at-large.

WHEREAS, LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport is an integrated network of academic medical training composed of the School of Medicine, the School of Graduate Studies, and the School of Allied Health Professions, along with E. A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe and Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville that collectively facilitate one-half million patient visits annually; and

WHEREAS, before Dr. Robert A. Barish began his service in 2009 as chancellor and dean, following Dr. John C. McDonald, he had amassed an inordinate background of knowledge and experience in the field of medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish is a biomedical innovator with a superb work ethic who possesses a fearless sense of adventure, an appetite for new professional challenges, and the insight to create clinical efficiency in complex medical infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, as an emergency medicine intern, Dr. Barish joined the International Rescue Committee, founded by the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, to provide assistance to rudimentary clinical facilities in Cambodia, Somalia, and Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, returning to the United States, Dr. Barish completed his residencies in internal medicine at St. Vincent Hospital in New York City and in the newly-emerging specialty of emergency medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and he obtained an advanced MBA degree from Loyola University-Maryland; and

WHEREAS, he was the youngest person appointed chief of hospital emergency services at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where he served for twenty-four years; that program evolved into one of the largest programs of its kind in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish also enlisted in the Maryland Air National Guard, became a flight surgeon in aerospace medicine, and became a candidate in the astronaut program at NASA; and

WHEREAS, as chancellor, Dr. Barish accelerated growth by implementation of the Vision 2020 strategic plan and, through its development, enrollment increased by twenty-five percent and in 2014 and 2015, applications for admittance exceeded all previous school records; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish and his leadership team achieved a decade of reaffirmations with commendations for leadership, operational effectiveness, and contributions to the regional workforce from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure the institution achieved full accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Residency Review Committee, the Association for Accreditation of Human Research Participant Protection Programs, as well as a five-year approval rating from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of a skilled faculty in preparing future health care professionals and improving the availability of quality health care to North Louisiana and the state, Dr. Barish successfully recruited more than thirty exceptional physicians and specialists, earning him the reputation of "most valuable recruiter"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish holds prestigious affiliations and fellowships with Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish took patient care into the community through Barbers for Blood Pressure Awareness and mobile 3-D mammography screening; and

WHEREAS, he further developed community awareness of life-saving techniques through events such as "An Evening For Heroes", a program that highlights the expertise of 911 operators and trauma surgeons; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish serves the community through participation in organizations such as The Strand Theatre, Committee of 100, the Barksdale Global Power Museum, the Military Affairs Council, and Boy Scouts of America, Inc. to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana owes Dr. Barish a debt of gratitude for his humanitarian efforts as a volunteer physician who brought much-needed medical treatment to Jefferson Parish in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Robert Barish shares his wonderful life with his wife, Jenny, and their daughters, Dani B. Blevins, Liza, and Sophie; Liza continues the family tradition in her final year of medical school; and

WHEREAS, as Dr. Robert Barish now enters a new phase in his phenomenal career, as vice chancellor for health affairs at University of Illinois at Chicago, he is appreciated as a renaissance man of many skills and talents; for his mentorship that has advanced others in his profession; and for his leadership that has elevated LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport to a higher realm in the national hierarchy of academia, clinical care, and research.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Robert A. Barish, MD, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport, for extraordinary leadership in the advancement of the institution and for the rich legacy of medical instruction and research that he leaves to the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its best wishes to Dr. Robert Barish for success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert A. Barish, MD.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES