

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR LONG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Dr. Harry Briggs on the momentous occasion of his ninetieth birthday and celebrating his third year in a row, swimming two miles in Kincaid Lake and on his lifetime of commitment and devotion to his family, friends and to education in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the historic and memorable occasion of Harry Briggs' ninetieth birthday on May 20, 2011, and wish to honor his lifetime of outstanding accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, known since the 1950s as "The Paddlin' Professor", Dr. Briggs is a political science instructor at Northwestern State University-Leesville, and has initiated several scholarship endowments to benefit current and future students at Northwestern; and

WHEREAS, this will be the second year that his birthday swim will support a scholarship fund that he established to support the NSU-School of Nursing, which has two hundred thirty-two students at NSU-Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, last year they were able to award two scholarships, one for a BSN Nursing major and one to a Radiologic Science major; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of birthday presents Dr. Briggs always asks for support for the NSU-Alexandria and the NSU School of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, the Dora Douglas Briggs Nursing and Radiologic Sciences Endowed Scholarship benefits NSU's Nursing and Radiologic Sciences programs at the Cenla Center in Alexandria, and Dr. Briggs will go a long way with his wallet and with his remarkable talent for marathon swimming to earn money and support for this scholarship that he is so passionate about; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Briggs swims two miles from Kincaid Lake in Alexandria, and finishes at Tunk's Cypress Inn, stating that there are two reasons he does it - the first, he wants to see if he can still do it, and secondly, but the more important reason, it is a chance to help young people achieve their dreams; and

WHEREAS, his most notable feat in the water was becoming the first person to swim across Lake Erie in 1947, when he swam for thirty-five hours, and fifty-five minutes and covered thirty-two miles from Sandusky, Ohio, to Point Pelee, Ontario; and

WHEREAS, Harry Briggs is comfortable on and in the water being a Marine Corp veteran of World War II battles in the Pacific Theatre at Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, Harry Briggs loves to challenge himself and has climbed the Matterhorn and worked in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, he is a native New Englander and graduate of Tufts University, where he also has created scholarship endowments; and

WHEREAS, as a sportswriter and sportscaster, he has traveled to Mexico, and Cuba and interviewed luminaries such as Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams, and Muhammad Ali and he continues to lead an intriguing life all while raising money for young people to achieve their dreams and help enable them to pursue their education; and

WHEREAS, the success of our country, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon people like Dr. Harry Briggs who during his ninety years, has lived life to the fullest, followed his dreams, and made numerous contributions and accomplishments in both his public and private life, to help others achieve their own dreams.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Harry Briggs on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday celebration, honors him for swimming two miles in Kincaid Lake for the third year in a row, and on his lifetime of commitment and devotion to his family, friends, and education in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Harry Briggs.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES