

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMPSON, ADAMS, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COX, DESHOTEL, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, GADBERRY, GAROFALO, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, KERNER, MACK, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, MINCEY, MOORE, PHELPS, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, SCHEXNAYDER, ST. BLANC, WHITE, AND WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend University of Louisiana Monroe president, Nick J. Bruno, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno began his tenure as the eighth president of the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) on November 8, 2010; prior to his appointment as president, he served ULM as the associate vice president for business affairs and vice president for business affairs and served as vice president for business and finance for the University of Louisiana System for five years; and

WHEREAS, as president, Dr. Bruno envisioned expansion of the university beyond the geographic confines of northeast Louisiana, and he set out to build a dynamic research institution, providing degree programs in the high-paying, high-demand fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno consolidated the university into four colleges in 2016, thereby centralizing the university's various programs under deans who are dedicated to the enhancement of these fields; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, under Dr. Bruno's leadership, ULM was classified as a Carnegie R3 Doctoral University and recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a Best National University; these were both first-time achievements for the university; and

WHEREAS, perhaps President Bruno's most significant achievement was securing a partnership with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine to build a medical school on the ULM campus, which will welcome its first class of students in 2020; and

WHEREAS, facilities projects during his presidency included a \$5 million renovation to Brown Stadium and Groseclose Track, the installation of a \$3 million Doppler radar weather system, and the renovation of Sandel Hall into the first one-stop student center and academic building in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, beyond his extensive contributions to the university, Dr. Bruno also found time to contribute to the larger community by serving on the boards of various civic, governmental, and private organizations, a few of which were the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Francis Medical Center; in February 2020, Dr. Bruno received the highest honor awarded by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, the Rambin-Silverstein Memorial Civic Award, which recognizes a resident of northeast Louisiana who has demonstrated achievement, leadership, and service for the benefit of the greater community; and

WHEREAS, at the end of his illustrious career in higher education, President Bruno gracefully led ULM during the COVID-19 crisis, which serves as a reminder of his commitment and dedication to both the university and the northeast Louisiana community; such commitment and dedication is most deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend University of Louisiana Monroe president, Nick J. Bruno, on the occasion of his retirement; does hereby express genuine appreciation to Dr. Bruno for his commitment to the advancement of the University of Louisiana Monroe and of northeast Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes for Dr. Bruno's success and happiness as he embarks on a new journey in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to President Nick J. Bruno.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES