

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 202

BY SENATOR LONG

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Christopher John Rich, a longtime resident of Alexandria, Louisiana, and a widely respected community member.

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was born to Ralph and Jean Gillis Rich in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, on February 29, 1956, and died at his home in Alexandria, Louisiana, on January 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a native of San Antonio, Dr. Christopher Rich was a three-year varsity athlete in football as an offensive lineman at LSU from 1976-78 and earned Academic All-Southeastern Conference honors in 1977 and 1978; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich completed his undergraduate degree at LSU in Baton Rouge, followed by a Doctor of Medicine degree from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, and his Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at LSU in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Dr. Rich completed his MBA at the University of Tennessee School of Business; and

WHEREAS, from 1988 through 2011, Dr. Christopher Rich was managing partner of Mid State Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Center in Alexandria, Louisiana, retiring from clinical practice in 2010; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as managing partner, Mid State received the honor of #1 in Orthopaedics for the state of Louisiana in 2004 and 2007 by HEALTHGRADES, "The Healthcare Quality Experts"; and

WHEREAS, as an integral part of the NSU sports medicine program, Dr. Christopher Rich served as the Director of Sports Medicine and head team physician for the Northwestern State Demons from 1990 until 2010; and

WHEREAS, he has served in a voluntary consulting role with the NSU team

physicians, sports medicine staff, and athletic administration in monitoring and addressing various medical and health-related issues that have become prominent in intercollegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich also played a role in promoting best practices and evidence-based medicine, as well as stewardship of financial resources related to medical care for the NSU Athletic Department. Dr. Rich was named and honored with induction for the Distinguished Service Award at Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Christopher Rich's tenure at NSU, over five hundred athletes sustained injuries that required surgery and the Mid State Team had an incredible rate of return to full sports competition of 99%; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich's practice specialized in sports medicine, arthroscopy of the shoulder and knee, and knee reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was recognized by his peers with induction into the Louisiana Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Dr. Rich received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association; and

WHEREAS, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association for his service with this organization; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Rich was a founding member of Alexandria's "High School Physical Day", that serviced all local high school athletes to determine whether it's safe for the athlete to participate in a certain sport; and

WHEREAS, Mid State Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine renamed the annual tradition of serving local high school athletes "Chris Rich High School Physical Day"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich served on the University Academic Medical Board with board oversight of business operations and management of the new 1.6 billion dollar LSU Medical Center in New Orleans and served as the medical director for the state of Louisiana Office of Worker's Compensation Administration from 2011 - 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Rich was board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, with a successful recertification in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic

Surgeons, past president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association in 2010, a member of the American Orthopaedic Society of Sports Medicine, and a charter/founding member of the Louisiana Sports Medicine Society; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Rich and his wife of thirty-five years, Vickie, raised their three children, Jeffrey Rich (and his wife Kim Rich), Margaret Rich Burton (and her husband, Will Burton), and Stacie Rich Keller (and her husband, David Keller) in a religious and loving family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Rich served his community proudly and was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church where he and Vickie were active and strove to live their lives walking in Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, he was an entrepreneur and a philanthropist, helping to raise monetary donations for local charities and nonprofit groups that touched thousands of lives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Rich was active in the community socially and politically, and he and Vickie particularly loved to host parties and enjoyed the pleasure of countless friends; and

WHEREAS, a favorite pastime of Dr. Christopher Rich's when not working, entertaining, or spending time with his family, was traveling to various locations with Vickie to explore a city or country's culture and history; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Rich's visitation and funeral were held at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, Louisiana, with Dr. David Brooks and Brother Anthony Mangun officiating; and

WHEREAS, as a man devoted to his family, his church, his business, and his community, Dr. Christopher Rich was a distinguished member of his community; one committed to leaving the world and Alexandria, Louisiana, a better place than when he found it, and his legacy is one of being committed to all endeavors in life, to faith in his church, and to love of family.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the death of Christopher J. Rich, MD, MBA, a longtime resident of Alexandria, Louisiana, and a widely respected member of the community.

SR NO. 202

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife and children.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE