

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR JOHNS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. Henry Gremillion, Dean of the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr.  
3 Henry Gremillion, DDS, MAGD, Dean of the LSU Health New Orleans School of  
4 Dentistry.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the  
6 Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Dr. Henry Gremillion, on May 18,  
7 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, a Louisiana native, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bascom Gremillion,  
9 adopted at the age of seven months from an orphanage in north Louisiana and raised in  
10 Cottonport, a small Louisiana farming community with a population of about two thousand  
11 people; and

12 WHEREAS, after graduating from the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry  
13 in 1977, Dr. Gremillion opened a practice in Cottonport where he saw patients from all  
14 walks of life – his neighbors, children in the Head Start Program, members of the  
15 Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe, and nursing home residents; and

16 WHEREAS, his service to his community went far beyond taking care of their oral  
17 health as he was a volunteer firefighter, a member of the local school board, and a member  
18 of the city council where he sought to implement community fluoridation and move forward

1 with reapportionment to address the disparity in representation; and his many contributions  
2 were publicly recognized when he was named 1989 Cottonport Citizen of the Year; and

3 WHEREAS, the quest to learn more to improve the quality of life for his patients led  
4 to a two-year craniofacial pain fellowship at the University of Florida College of Dentistry  
5 (UFCD), and, instead of being a stepping stone to return to private practice back home in  
6 Louisiana, the fellowship led him to academic dentistry; and

7 WHEREAS, rising through the academic ranks, Dr. Gremillion was named the  
8 Parker E. Mahan Endowed Professor of Orofacial Pain in the Department of Orthodontics  
9 and was a member of the dental staff of Shands Teaching Hospital; he also served as the  
10 director of the UFCD Parker Mahan Facial Pain Center and its fellowship program in  
11 craniomandibular dysfunction; and

12 WHEREAS, he returned to LSU in 2008 as the sixth dean since the founding of the  
13 school of dentistry and the only alumnus to hold the position, and continued the school's  
14 recovery from the devastation that followed Hurricane Katrina; he guided sorely needed  
15 renovations to improve the learning environment for students; the preclinical laboratories  
16 now rival those at any school anywhere; he enhanced patient care and research by  
17 completing the only new building on the dental school campus since it was founded, the \$31  
18 million Allen A. Copping, DDS Advanced Clinical Care and Research Building which  
19 opened in 2018; and

20 WHEREAS, he led the state's only school of dentistry and the only one in the country  
21 with degree programs in dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental laboratory technology, but was  
22 most proud of his students and often spoke of their "giving nature"; he delighted in helping  
23 them with their community service projects like Give Kids a Smile Day and Adopt an Angel  
24 where you could see him wheeling bikes into elevators down to the lobby for pick up by the  
25 Salvation Army truck; and

26 WHEREAS, one of the programs closest to Dr. Gremillion's heart was the Summer  
27 Enrichment Program, the purpose of the program being to diversify dentistry by identifying  
28 and preparing students from underrepresented minority and disadvantaged backgrounds to  
29 be competitive for application to, and then succeed in, dental school and in so doing,  
30 changed the complexion of the dental school; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Gremillion's many honors include LSU Health New Orleans School  
2 of Dentistry Alumnus of Year in 2001, the school's highest alumnus award, and the  
3 University of Florida College of Dentistry Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, a beloved educator, the Florida Dental Association honored him as the  
5 Florida Dental Educator of the Year in 2002 and 2006; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Gremillion received the Louisiana Academy of General Dentistry  
7 Career Service Award in 2003 and a 2007 Distinguished Professor by the University of  
8 Florida Blue Key Society; and

9           WHEREAS, in 2008, the American Academy of General Dentistry honored Dr.  
10 Gremillion with the prestigious Theodore V. Weclaw Award for contributions to the  
11 education of general dentists and, in 2009, the Dawson Academy honored him with its  
12 Career Service Award; in 2010, he received the American Academy of Orofacial Pain  
13 Service Award, and in 2015, was awarded the Pierre Fauchard Gold Medal, presented  
14 annually to a dentist in the United States who has made outstanding contributions to the  
15 progress and standing of the dental profession; one of the international dental honor  
16 organization's most prestigious and exclusive awards; and

17           WHEREAS, he was a member of the American Dental Association, Louisiana Dental  
18 Association, Academy of General Dentistry, Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental  
19 Fraternity, American Academy of Orofacial Pain, American Pain Society, International  
20 Association for the Study of Pain, American Equilibration Society, American Association  
21 for Dental Research and International Association for Dental Research; and

22           WHEREAS, Dr. Gremillion was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the  
23 American Dental Education Association, the sole national organization representing  
24 academic dentistry; and

25           WHEREAS, despite his national stature, Dr. Gremillion easily related to people from  
26 all walks of life as students, faculty, patients, members of the community, elected officials,  
27 and local, state, and national leaders all found him approachable, respectful, caring, engaged  
28 and down to earth; and

29           WHEREAS, he was a dedicated doctor, a nationally recognized educator, and a  
30 visionary leader at local, state, and federal levels who inspired countless dental students

1 throughout his time as dean of the state's only dental school and whose vision steered the  
2 school through expansions and renovations so that students can practice their skills in the  
3 most advanced preclinical labs in America; and

4 WHEREAS, his contributions to the dental profession in Louisiana and nationally  
5 are unparalleled; he leaves a legacy of professional standards, high ideals, integrity, quality  
6 education, and service that will continue to shape dental practice for generations to come;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, with his passing dental education has lost a true gentleman, scholar,  
9 leader, and friend, and an incredible man, educator, and visionary; and

10 WHEREAS, his passion for the betterment of his beloved profession was powerful  
11 and sincere; he truly understood, and more importantly, valued the relationships between the  
12 school, the students, and the dental professionals; he worked tirelessly to make sure his  
13 students had the proper education, exposure, and experience to share in his vision of  
14 supporting all Louisiana communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Gremillion is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Karleen  
16 Mackey Gremillion; daughters Erin G. Jackson (Brad) and Lindsay G. Maples (Andy); and  
17 sons Alan Gremillion (Sarah) and Scott Gremillion (Wendy); as well as ten grandchildren;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, he was one of the most respected in the world in his field of facial pain,  
20 who was loved by all for his love of sharing his knowledge and his kind demeanor, a mentor  
21 to many as a dentist and a loving person who will be dearly missed by his family, friends and  
22 colleagues.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. Henry Gremillion, does  
25 hereby extend posthumous honor and tribute to Dr. Henry Gremillion for a distinguished  
26 career of excellence which was marked by his uncompromising endeavor to improve the  
27 LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry, the practice of dentistry, and the welfare of  
28 his fellow citizens, and to make Louisiana a better place to live, and does hereby recognize  
29 and record his singular and momentous contributions and achievements which will long be  
30 remembered and will long continue to be a source of pride for his family, his friends, and

