

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 141

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

COMMENDATIONS. Commends World War II American war hero and scientific researcher extraordinaire Dr. William Hansel posthumously.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend World War II American war hero and scientific researcher extraordinaire Dr.  
3 William Hansel posthumously on this Memorial Day.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. William Hansel, a Baton Rouge resident at the time of his death on  
5 January 2, 2017, began his remarkable scientific career at Cornell University and ended  
6 almost seven decades later, was continuing his stellar research at LSU's Pennington  
7 Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge with unabated enthusiasm and keen intellect  
8 that were his hallmarks; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel was born September 16, 1918, in Vale Summit, MD, was  
10 a graduate of the University of Maryland, and earned his Master of Science and PhD degrees  
11 from Cornell University; and

12 WHEREAS, his life plans, like most of his contemporaries, was interrupted by World  
13 War II, he served with great distinction with General George Patton's Ghost Corps during  
14 Battle of the Bulge and was awarded two Purple Hearts for his heroism; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel, lauded multiple times during his professional career for his  
16 achievements, considered "dashing through the Rhine River" during his military service as  
17 his proudest accomplishment; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1949, Dr. Hansel joined the faculty of Cornell University and after

1 years of service served as Chair of the Department of Physiology and the distinguished  
2 Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Animal Physiology before retiring; and

3 WHEREAS, although he left Cornell University after four decades on its faculty,  
4 retirement from his active and productive life as a research scientist was never a  
5 consideration for Dr. Hansel, in 1990 he joined Louisiana State University as the Gordon  
6 Cain Professor where he continued his research in reproductive biology; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1994 he became one of the first scientists at the then-new Pennington  
8 Biomedical Research Center; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1995 his wife, Milbrey, who predeceased him in 1997, was diagnosed  
10 with ovarian cancer, prompting Dr. Hansel to immediately begin applying his research  
11 expertise to finding a new treatment for cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, he recalled that shortly thereafter he was attending a conference in  
13 Poland where a talk on the distribution of receptors for pituitary hormone in cancer made  
14 him realize that the scientific research at Pennington Biomedical held the potential answer;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, that realization was the impetus for his work over the next several  
17 decades as Dr. Hansel and his laboratory worked to develop a new class of cancer drugs to  
18 target and destroy primary cancer tumors as well as the sites to which it spread; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel is the originator and coinventor of Cationic Lytic Peptide  
20 Technology, a new class of cancer drugs that target and destroy human breast, ovarian,  
21 prostate, and testicular cancer cells currently being tested in clinical trials at MD Anderson  
22 Cancer Center; and

23 WHEREAS, his most recent research was focused on therapies for prostate cancer;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, during his long and storied academic career, Dr. Hansel received many  
26 awards including the 2014 Renowned Physiologist accolade from the American Physiology  
27 Society; and

28 WHEREAS, he was not only a superior research scientist, he also was a noted  
29 teacher who mentored more than 100 pre- and postdoctoral students; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Hansel published more than 300 scientific articles; and

