

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 280

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of
Dr. Christopher John Rich, M.B.A.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Dr. Christopher John Rich, on January 19, 2019, at the age of sixty-two; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chris Rich was born to Ralph and Jean Gillis Rich on February 29, 1956; a native of San Antonio, Dr. Rich was a three-year varsity football player as an offensive lineman at Louisiana State University (LSU) and earned Academic All-Southeastern Conference honors; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from LSU, Dr. Rich earned his doctor of medicine degree from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, and thereafter, completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at LSU; years later, Dr. Rich returned to school and earned a master's degree in business administration at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, from 1988 to 2011, Dr. Rich was managing partner of Mid-State Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Center in Alexandria, Louisiana, retiring from clinical practice in 2010; during his tenure as managing partner, Mid-State received the honor of No. 1 in orthopaedics for the state of Louisiana in 2004 and 2007 by HEALTHGRADES; and

WHEREAS, as an integral part of the Northwestern State University (NSU) sports medicine program, Dr. Chris Rich served as the director of sports medicine and head team physician for the Northwestern State Demons from 1990 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, he 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; and

WHEREAS, revered by his peers, Dr. Rich was honored many times over; he received the Distinguished Service Award at NSU; in 2005, he was inducted into the Louisiana Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame; in 2013, Dr. Rich received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association; the association later awarded him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his service with the organization; and

WHEREAS, Mid-State Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine renamed the annual physical day for health screenings for local high school athletes "Chris Rich High School Physical Day"; and

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, past president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association, a member of the American Orthopaedic Society of Sports Medicine, and a charter member of the Louisiana Sports Medicine Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chris Rich served his community proudly and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where he and his wife, 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 funds for local charities and nonprofit organizations that touched countless lives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chris 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. Chris 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, M.B.A., is survived by his loving wife of thirty-five years, Vickie; children, Jeffrey Rich, and his wife Kim, Margaret Rich, and her fiancé Will, and Stacie Keller, and her husband David; grandchildren, Jack, Jesse, Sadie, and Wade; and brother, Tony Rich, and his wife Fran; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chris Rich was a distinguished member of his community, someone committed to leaving the world around him a better place, and his legacy is one of being dedicated to all endeavors in life, to faith in his church, and to love of family.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Dr. Christopher John Rich, M.B.A.; does hereby record for posterity his manifold contributions to the medical field and to his community; and does hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this wonderful man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Christopher John Rich.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES