

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Louisiana State University Professor Emeritus Dr. Milton C.

"Chuck" Rush on his distinguished career and accomplishments in the field of plant pathology.

WHEREAS, Dr. Milton C. "Chuck" Rush has dedicated over thirty-seven years in education, research, and service to the United States rice industry as a research plant pathologist with the LSU AgCenter; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Arizona in 1964, his Master of Science degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Arizona in 1966, and his PhD in Plant Pathology from North Carolina State University in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rush's areas of specialization and research include the epidemiology, etiology, and control of rice diseases; breeding for disease resistance in rice; and rice tissue culture and transformation; and

WHEREAS, his efforts are directed toward improving rice variety resistance to major rice diseases and improvement of rice tissue culture and transformation techniques; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rush's programs pioneered the development of rating scales for rice diseases in the southern United States; and

WHEREAS, he first reported eight new diseases in Louisiana rice and his extensive fungicide testing programs were critical for the labeling of new fungicides for the foliar application, which included Benlate 50WP, the first foliar fungicide labeled for rice in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rush first succeeded in regenerating plants from anthers of a U.S. rice cultivar and was instrumental in the establishment of the anther culture laboratory at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines during his sabbatical leave from 1979

to 1980; and

WHEREAS, by crossing elite long-grain cultivars with newly identified resistance sources, over three hundred lines showing sheath blight resistance and high yield potential have been developed and turned over to the various breeding programs; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Rush's breeding work, he isolated a rice variety with a purple grain that remains slightly purple even after milling; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the pleasant aesthetic properties of the purple grain rice, it is also much higher in antioxidants and healthier than rice found in the store; and

WHEREAS, this new purple grain rice has a tremendous amount of potential to increase Louisiana rice acreage as well as lead to the development of value-added industries to process and market this important breakthrough; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Dr. Rush published over three hundred journal articles, book chapters, and research reports and has served the Rice Technical Working Group as a member of the Award Committee, Germplasm Advisory Committee, and Local Arrangement Committee, and as a panel moderator several times; and

WHEREAS, he currently holds the position of Professor Emeritus and Florence Avalon Daggett Professor in Rice Research; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rush has received numerous awards throughout his career including the Distinguished Academy Scientist Award from the Louisiana Academy of Sciences, the Distinguished Rice Research and Education Award from the Rice Technical Working Group, the Doyle Chambers Research Award from the LSU AgCenter, the Outstanding Plant Pathologist award from the American Phytopathological Society, the Diversity in the Workplace Award from the LSU AgCenter, and the Sedberry Award-Outstanding Graduate Teacher in the College of Agriculture from the LSU College of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rush is a dedicated family man and husband to Blanca and his children Ana, Carrie, Claudia, Michael, and Tomas and his grandson Jacob.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Louisiana State University Professor Emeritus Dr. Milton C. "Chuck" Rush on his distinguished career and accomplishments in the field of plant pathology.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.
Milton C. "Chuck" Rush.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE