

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATORS GATTI, MILKOVICH, PEACOCK AND TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD, for nearly thirty-four years of service as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan came to the LSU Health Sciences Center to serve as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and has remained in that position until his retirement earlier this month; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan was named a Boyd Professor in 2002, the LSU systems' highest designated professorial rank, and in the sixty-year history of Boyd Professors, only seventy professors have reached this pinnacle of recognition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan, a 1958 graduate of Jesuit High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, is also the Willis-Knighten Endowed Chair of Microbiology, the first endowed chair at the LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport campus; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the Shreveport campus, Dr. O'Callaghan developed the doctoral program in microbiology and immunology and established the Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology, known as CMTV, which was awarded fifteen years of funding by the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources, specifically receiving a five year \$4.82 million grant in 2014 alone to continue and expand the CMTV facility; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan's contributions to research at the Shreveport facility are extensive, including being the first faculty member to be awarded a COBRE grant, provided through the National Institutes of Health to strengthen and support the institution's biomedical research infrastructure, which supported the CMTV, and he has secured thirty-nine million dollars in research funding which is more than any faculty member in the

history of LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, beyond the campus in Shreveport, Dr. O'Callaghan is involved in his field of research on a local, national, and international level, serving two terms on the Microbiology National Exam Committee and as an external reviewer of doctoral students at several universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Callaghan has served on many national panels and study sections for research agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, nationally and internationally Dr. O'Callaghan has organized meetings for the International Herpesvirus Workshop and the American Society for Microbiology and he was a founding member of the American Society for Virology where he served two terms as program organizer and one year as president in 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. O'Callaghan credits his colleagues, students, and postdoctoral fellows as essential to his accomplishments and he is especially appreciative of Dr. Ike Muslow for recruiting him to continue his career in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor and Dean G. E. Ghali, MD, of LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport states that Dr. O'Callaghan is "an icon in our institution" continuing to cite his work ethic, focus, love of students, and his brilliance, all of which "will long be remembered and appreciated"; and

WHEREAS, in honor Dr. O'Callaghan's contributions and achievements in the Shreveport institution, Mayor Ollie S. Tyler declared March 13, 2018, "Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan Day" in the city; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan's nearly thirty-four years at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, encompassing ground-breaking research, tens of millions of dollars in grant money received, and the expert guidance of thousands of students, postdoctoral fellows, and medical residents has altered the academic and research standards and facilities in the disciplines of microbiology and immunology at this institution of higher learning and have left an indelible mark and a lasting legacy of the standards for which he stood as chairman, accomplishments of which he should be justly proud.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD, for nearly thirty-four years of service as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan in care of LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE