

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY SENATOR CROWE AND REPRESENTATIVES HUTTER AND HENDERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Bryan Bertucci, M.D., of Chalmette, Louisiana, on receipt of the City Business Award as a Hurricane Health Hero and for his many selfless contributions to promote essential health care services in St. Bernard Parish.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryan Bertucci is a family practice physician, the coroner for St. Bernard Parish, a member of the Hospital Services Board, and the recipient of an abundance of community service awards for his adamant dedication to increased availability of life-saving medical services for the parish and those regions affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bertucci, a graduate of LSU Medical School in New Orleans, has practiced family medicine for nearly thirty years and has been a mainstay among his peers in the medical profession; and

WHEREAS, during the onslaught of destruction and the disastrous aftermath from Hurricane Katrina that began on August 29, 2005, Dr. Bertucci remained at his post at Chalmette Medical Center with fifty-four critically ill patients, a flooded first floor and no electricity; two days later to be evacuated to the parish prison, where cells were converted to hospital rooms and the prison pharmacy was raided for supplies; and

WHEREAS, immediately after the storm, Dr. Bertucci, along with two other doctors and a handful of nursing staff, treated three hundred evacuees per day until all medical personnel and patients were finally evacuated to other hospitals on the second of September; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bertucci is indeed a hero, not only for his herculean feats of ministering to the afflicted, but his tenacity and unyielding resolve to remain in St. Bernard Parish working out of a temporary medical center with few fellow physicians and a sparse client base, and to contribute to the long-term rebuilding of a viable medical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to task has been acknowledged with innumerable honors, both locally and nationally, including the Family Practice Award, the St. Louis Medallion awarded by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Men For Others-Ignatius Award and the President's Award; both from Spring Hill College, the 2007 Man of the Year citation from the St. Bernard Parish Business and Professional Women, and as the recipient of the Physicians' Disaster Assistance Program, a grant presented by the American Academy of Family Physicians; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bertucci voices his impatience with the delayed recovery of quality health care by providing testimony before the United States Congress as to the lack of funding and the gravity of this public health care crisis and by making a public vow that, "Until medicine is well (in St. Bernard Parish), I won't wear a white coat"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bertucci stands staunchly committed to the advancement of medical services beyond mere basics to the complete reestablishment of a diversity of treatment specialties and to advocate the formation of a permanent regional hospital network in the parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Bryan Bertucci, M. D., for his many contributions to public health and for his recognition as a Hurricane Health Hero.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bryan Bertucci, M. D.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES