



SR0885

LRB097 22503 MST 71266 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Donald Liu and wish to honor him for his great act of heroism in saving 2 boys from drowning on August 5, 2012; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu was born on June 12, 1962, in New York, and grew up in Taiwan; and

7

8

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated with honors in 1984 and earned his bachelor's degree in natural sciences; in 1990, he earned his medical degree with high honors and his Ph.D. in immunology from Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia; he later completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1995, followed by a 2-year fellowship in pediatric surgery at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital; and

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu was internationally recognized for his expertise in applying and adapting the techniques of minimally invasive surgery to children; he served as an assistant professor of surgery at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine's Children's Hospital of New

19

20

21

22

1 Orleans from 1997 to 2001; in 2001, he joined the University of  
2 Chicago's Department of Surgery as a pediatric surgeon; in  
3 2007, he was named section chief of pediatric surgery and  
4 surgeon-in-chief at Comer Children's Hospital; and

5 WHEREAS, During his career, Dr. Donald Liu developed  
6 innovative approaches to the treatment of numerous chronic  
7 abdominal pain syndromes in children, including median arcuate  
8 ligament syndrome (MALS), a little-known and under-diagnosed  
9 disorder; he was also a researcher of numerous medical topics,  
10 including Hirschsprung's disease, the pathogenesis of  
11 necrotizing enterocolitis, and the importance of gut bacteria  
12 in health and disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu was a prolific scholar and the  
14 author or co-author of more than 70 research publications and 8  
15 book chapters dealing principally with minimally invasive  
16 surgery, the human microbiome, and the surgical treatment of  
17 intestinal disease; he lectured around the world, especially in  
18 China, and contributed to 7 instructional films for various  
19 surgical societies; he also served as the principal  
20 investigator for multiple clinical trials and for 2 large  
21 grants from the National Institutes of Health; and

22 WHEREAS, During his career, Dr. Donald Liu helped to  
23 develop a formal affiliation between the University of

1 Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital and the Shanghai  
2 Children's Medical Center through Project Hope, a  
3 collaborative effort that helped to train several  
4 international fellows who have gone on to become institutional  
5 leaders in China; as a result, he was honored with an endowed  
6 chair at Jiao Tong University/Shanghai Second Medical College  
7 and was given a grant and the "1000-Person Distinction" award  
8 by the Shanghai government, which recognizes collaborative  
9 clinical, research, and educational efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu was the recipient of numerous  
11 honors, including teaching awards from the University of  
12 Pennsylvania, the Children's Hospital of New Orleans, and the  
13 University of Chicago, where he recently won the Distinguished  
14 Senior Clinician Award; he was also routinely selected for  
15 local and national lists of top doctors, including Chicago  
16 Magazine in 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, On August 5, 2012, two 12-year-old boys were  
18 kayaking in Lake Michigan when they were knocked out of the  
19 kayak by heavy waves and began to struggle in the choppy water;  
20 seeing that the children were in trouble, Dr. Donald Liu  
21 immediately went out into the water to help them; thanks to Dr.  
22 Liu's great bravery and quick thinking, the children made it to  
23 shore; tragically, Dr. Liu was swept away by the rip current  
24 and passed away; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Liu is survived by his loving wife,  
2           Dana Suskind; his children, Genevieve, Asher, and Amelie; and  
3           his sister, Diana Liu; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
5           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
6           his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Donald Liu; and be  
7           it further

8           RESOLVED, That we honor his great bravery and willingness  
9           to save lives at the cost of his own; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11          presented to the family of Dr. Donald Liu as an expression of  
12          our sympathy.