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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

September 12, 2012

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution honoring the life and memory of Dr. Donald Liu.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Whereas, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of the distinguished pediatric surgeon, Doctor Donald Liu of the University of Chicago Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu drowned August 5th after rescuing two children who were caught in a strong current in Lake Michigan, near the town of Lakeside, Michigan while on vacation with his family. Doctor Liu had noticed that two twelve year-old boys had fallen out of their kayak in Lake Michigan and were struggling in the water due to high waves. Acting without hesitation, Doctor Liu raced across the beach and plunged into the water to rescue the boys. Doctor Liu was able to rescue both boys but in doing so placed himself in danger and was pulled under the water by the current and could not be revived; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu was born in New York City on February 12, 1962 and grew up in Taiwan. Doctor Liu graduated with honors in 1984 from Johns Hopkins University with a bachelor's degree in natural sciences. He received his medical degree with high honors and his PHD in immunology from Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1990. He completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1995. Doctor Liu then completed a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, From 1997 to 2001, Doctor Liu was an assistant professor of surgery at Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Doctor Liu joined the University of Chicago Department of Surgery as a pediatric surgeon. He was named section chief of pediatric surgery and surgeon-in-chief at Comer Children's Hospital in 2007. He was the Mary Campau Ryerson Professor in Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Chicago Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu was internationally recognized for his achievements in research, and for his expertise in applying and adapting the techniques of minimally invasive surgery to children. He developed innovative approaches to the treatment of chronic abdominal pain syndromes in children, including median arcuate ligament syndrome, a little-known and underdiagnosed disorder. His skill and experience attracted patients from all over the country; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu received many honors during his distinguished career, including teaching awards from the University of Pennsylvania, the Children's Hospital of New Orleans, and the University of Chicago, where he recently won a Distinguished Senior Clinician Award; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu assisted in developing a formal affiliation between the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital and the Shanghai Children's Medical Center through Project Hope. This collaborative effort helped train several international fellows who have gone on to become institutional leaders in China. As a result, Doctor Liu was honored with an endowed chair at Jiao Tong University/Shanghai Second Medical College. He was also awarded \$300,000 by the Shanghai municipal government in recognition of his collaborative clinical, research and educational efforts; and

WHEREAS, A prolific scholar, Doctor Liu was an author or co-author of more than 70 research publications and eight book chapters, primarily dealing with minimally invasive surgery, the human microbiome and the surgical treatment of intestinal disease; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Liu, an extremely caring and kind-hearted family man who devoted himself to helping others, will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A shining example of what makes Chicago a great city, Doctor Liu was a true hero who died as he had lived: saving children; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Donald Liu is survived by his loving children, Genevieve, 13, Asher, 10, and Amelie, 7 and his caring wife, Doctor Dana Suskind, professor of surgery and pediatrics at the University of Chicago and the director of the Pediatric Cochlear Implantation Program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twelfth day of September, 2012 do hereby honor the life and memory of Doctor Donald Liu, and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Doctor Donald Liu as a sign of our sympathy and good wishes.



Ral Emanuel

MAYOR

Susana A. Mendez

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