



2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

1 **Relating to:** honoring members of the University of Michigan Health System
2 Hospital survival flight team.

3 Whereas, on June 4, 2007, six members of a medical team from the University
4 of Michigan (U–M) were returning from Milwaukee with organs for a transplant
5 patient when they lost their lives in a plane crash off the Milwaukee lakefront into
6 Lake Michigan; and

7 Whereas, the transplant team had departed Milwaukee in the afternoon with
8 organs it had procured for a patient at the University of Michigan Health System
9 Hospital; and

10 Whereas, aboard the aircraft were members of the U–M’s survival flight team:
11 David Ashburn, M.C., a fellow (physician in training) in pediatric cardiothoracic
12 surgery; Richard Chenault II, a transplant donation specialist with the U–M
13 Transplant Program; Dennis Hoyes, a Marlin air pilot; Richard Lapensee, a
14 transplant donation specialist with the U–M Transplant Program; William Serra, a

1 Marlin air pilot; and Martinus (Martin) Spoor, M.D., a cardiac surgeon who had been
2 on the U–M faculty since 2003; and

3 Whereas, for nearly 25 years, the survival flight helicopters have safely
4 transported critically ill and injured patients of all ages from hospitals and accident
5 sites across the state to the University of Michigan Health System Hospital for
6 specialized care, aided in rescue operations, and transported harvest teams for organ
7 donations; and

8 Whereas, the U–M performs nearly 400 organ transplants per year in both
9 adults and children, requiring the dedicated, professional involvement of
10 approximately 125 surgeons, nurses, perfusionists, and transplant coordinators
11 working for the U–M Transplant Center, making it the largest and most experienced
12 transplant center in Michigan — and among the largest in the nation; and

13 Whereas, since 1964 more than 7,109 children and adults have benefited from
14 the lifesaving efforts of the U–M Transplant Center, and today, the U–M Transplant
15 Center performs kidney, liver, heart, lung and pancreas transplants; and

16 Whereas, transplant surgery requires the precise coordination of dozens of
17 doctors, technicians, hospital administrators, families, and transport vehicles; and

18 Whereas, the loss of these individuals whose lives were devoted to helping
19 others in need of specialized care will be sorely missed by their families, their
20 colleagues, and those whose lives they touched; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
22 Wisconsin Senate extend their condolences to the families of Dr. David Ashburn,
23 Richard Chenault II, Dennis Hoyes, Richard Lapensee, William Serra, and Dr.
24 Martin Spoor.

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(END)