



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Speaker Barras and Louisiana Legislature to honor the life of Markell Gregoire during annual HoopLA event

BATON ROUGE - Speaker of the House Taylor Barras and the Louisiana Legislature will honor the life of 16-year-old St. Jude patient Markell Gregoire, who passed away this past February after losing his battle with cancer. Markell, a native of New Iberia, La in Speaker Barras' district, had a love for spreading awareness on childhood cancer and a love for sports, especially basketball. He was given the opportunity to spend time with New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton, quarterback Drew Brees, and other players.

Each year the Louisiana Legislature participates in the HoopLA basketball event held at the LSU Pete Maravich Assembly Center. This year's May 2 game will be coupled with "Markell Day", which will serve to recognize Markell and his love for basketball, as well as to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where Markell received care for almost six years.

"As the legislature holds this annual event to benefit a court refurbishment in one of the legislator's districts, we thought it was fitting to recognize Markell for his bravery at HoopLA because of his love of basketball," said Barras. "We are happy to be partnering with St. Jude and the New Orleans Pelicans."

"HoopLA is a great legislative tradition rooted in the heart of bravery, strength, and compassion; all characteristics that remind us of Markell," added Rep. Terry Landry, who also represents the New Iberia area. "Honoring this great young man and his legacy brings new meaning to the event, and we're proud to pay tribute to him through his most beloved sport."

Rep. Schroder, who directs the event every year, added his sentiments, saying, "HoopLA has always been about family-fun and helping kids play basketball. This year, we're expanding upon our mission by honoring the great legacy of Markell." Proceeds from the event will go toward the renovation of a community court and to St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital. “We’re proud to continue our relationship with the New Orleans Pelicans and look forward to a great relationship with St. Jude,” said Schroder.

The HoopLA Basketball Game will take place on May 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, located on the campus of LSU.

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