

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Donald K. Stephens has had a transformative impact
2 in the lives of countless people through his efforts as the founder
3 of Mercy Ships, an international faith-based charity that uses
4 hospital ships and volunteer professionals to provide free medical
5 care to men, women, and children across the globe; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1978, Don Stephens founded Mercy Ships along with
7 his wife, Deyon; its vision was inspired by the work of the
8 international hospital ship S.S. *Hope*, as well as by their
9 experience as the parents of a child with disabilities; he oversaw
10 the growth and development of the organization until his retirement
11 from operational duties, and he also hosted a daily radio broadcast
12 called "The Mercy Minute," which aired on some 840 stations for over
13 two decades; today, he continues to promote the Mercy Ships mission
14 internationally in his role as president emeritus; and

15 WHEREAS, A global Christian missionary organization, Mercy
16 Ships operates two vessels, the *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*,
17 the latter of which was funded by a capital campaign managed by
18 Mr. Stephens and commissioned into service in 2022; each ship is
19 deployed to field missions in low- and middle-income nations, where
20 thousands of volunteers perform such surgical procedures as cleft
21 lip and palate surgery, cataract removal, and orthopedic and facial
22 reconstruction; all patients are treated free of charge, regardless
23 of their religion, race, or gender, and since its inception, close
24 to three million people have directly benefited from the services

1 the charity has provided; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to overseeing the operations of the
3 organization, Mr. Stephens has authored three books, *Trial by*
4 *Trial*, *Mandate for Mercy*, and *Ships of Mercy*; in 2009, he was
5 presented with the International Humanitarian of the Year award
6 from Variety International; and

7 WHEREAS, Under the compassionate leadership of Don Stephens,
8 Mercy Ships has been a beacon of hope to the world's most
9 vulnerable, and his lifelong service in behalf of the
10 organization's mission and his steadfast dedication to the greater
11 good are indeed worthy of special recognition; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor Donald K. Stephens for his work as the
15 founder and president emeritus of Mercy Ships and extend to him
16 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. Stephens as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.

Hefner

H.R. No. 616

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 616 was adopted by the House on March 31, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House