

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 635

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Judy Shepard for her outstanding endeavors to educate Americans on the need to treat all people with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, Judy Shepard is the executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, which was established in December of 1998 to honor the dreams, beliefs, and aspirations of Matthew Shepard, her son, who died a victim of homophobic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Honoring Matthew Shepard's legacy has led Judy to be a forceful and compassionate voice for her son's values of dignity and respect for others; and

**WHEREAS**, Since the tragic loss of her son, Judy Shepard has become a leader in the effort to end hate crimes in the United States; her commitment to this goal has taken her to our nation's capital to lobby for hate crimes legislation, and she has worked with organizations dedicated to ending hatred and violence in our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, A well-known speaker on civil and human rights, Judy addresses audiences on the need to raise awareness about the dangers of hate language and about hatred as a learned behavior that can be unlearned; and

**WHEREAS**, An exemplary lady of strength, courage, and high moral principles, Judy Shepard is an inspiration to others, and she deserves recognition for her tenacity and her hard work on behalf of human rights and dignity; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Judy Shepard for her valor and her commitment to raising public awareness of the need for all citizens to accept and respect people from all walks of life; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 16, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate