

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 440

WHEREAS, For nearly three decades, Mercy Ships, a global charity, has come to the aid of people in need by maintaining a fleet of hospital ships in developing nations; and

WHEREAS, Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens of Garden Valley when they purchased the *Anastasis* and set to transform it from a passenger ship to a floating hospital; today, following the tenets of their spiritual beliefs, they have expanded the charity to include three ships, which all provide medical treatment for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, In its benevolent quest, the organization has served more than 5.5 million people, delivered more than \$21 million of medical equipment, hospital supplies, and medicines, and completed nearly 350 construction and agriculture projects, including schools, clinics, and orphanages; the charity relies on 850 staff members and more than 1,600 volunteers to carry out its mission; and

WHEREAS, The founders, staff, and volunteers of Mercy Ships have made an indelible impact on the fight for global health and development; their tireless work in behalf of individuals in need is truly an inspiration, and it is a pleasure to honor their achievements at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend Mercy Ships for bringing hope and healing to developing countries and extend to Don and Deyon Stephens and all those associated with this remarkable organization sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the staff and volunteers as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Deuell

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on March 21, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate