

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 256

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, Shriners Hospitals for
2 Children--Galveston has provided exceptional care to countless
3 children from across the Lone Star State and beyond; and

4 WHEREAS, The Shriners Hospitals system conducts innovative
5 research and provides specialized, family-centered care to
6 children at no cost at 22 facilities located throughout the United
7 States and in Canada and Mexico; the facility in Galveston dates
8 back to the mid-1960s, when the Shriners of North America announced
9 the creation of three burn institutes; Dr. Truman Blocker, chief
10 administrative officer of The University of Texas Medical Branch,
11 met with representatives from Shriners Hospitals to encourage them
12 to build one of these facilities in Galveston, where hospital staff
13 could work closely with the team at UTMB and join in their efforts
14 to improve treatment methods for burn victims; and

15 WHEREAS, Since it opened in 1966, the Shriners Hospitals for
16 Children--Galveston has garnered widespread acclaim for its
17 comprehensive acute care and reconstructive and rehabilitative
18 services; in addition to treating burn injuries and related
19 scarring, this 30-bed pediatric hospital has provided both physical
20 and emotional rehabilitation and became a pioneering research and
21 teaching center; recognizing the vital role a family plays in a
22 child's ability to overcome an injury, the staff of Shriners
23 Hospitals for Children has implemented a family-centered approach
24 in which children's loved ones are involved throughout treatment

1 and recovery; and

2 WHEREAS, The additional services that the Galveston facility
3 has offered include caregiver training classes, transition
4 assistance, emotional support and counseling, on-site tutoring,
5 scar prevention, pain management, music therapy, and special
6 playroom activities; the hospital has also sponsored at least 12
7 outreach clinics annually for the purpose of treating children with
8 burn injuries in such locations as New Orleans and Mexico;
9 moreover, the Shriners Hospitals for Children--Galveston has
10 maintained its longstanding partnership with UTMB, and with shared
11 facility space, equipment, and clinical and research staff, this
12 unique collaboration has led to many significant medical
13 developments; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the Shriners of North America first made the
15 commitment to advance the treatment of burns, a child's chance of
16 surviving these injuries has more than doubled, and their
17 facilities have become leaders in this type of care and research;
18 the Galveston hospital has played a major role in these notable
19 achievements, yet the facility has halted its renovation and
20 remains closed after sustaining significant damage during
21 Hurricane Ike in September 2008; although its operations are
22 currently suspended, the Shriners Hospitals for
23 Children--Galveston is worthy of special recognition for its
24 exemplary contributions to the field of medicine and to the health
25 and well-being of many children in need; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
27 Legislature hereby honor Shriners Hospitals for

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1 Children--Galveston for its outstanding service throughout the
2 past four decades and extend to all those associated with the
3 facility sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Shriners Hospitals for Children--Galveston as an
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.