

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1732

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Mercy Ships has  
2 operated hospital ships that deliver free, world-class health care  
3 services to those without access in over 70 developing nations; and

4           WHEREAS, This Christian-based global charity was founded in  
5 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens of Garden Valley with the mission "to  
6 bring hope and healing to the forgotten poor"; today they oversee  
7 the *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest nongovernmental hospital  
8 ship, consisting of six operating rooms and berth capacity for some  
9 484 people; and

10           WHEREAS, Representing more than 35 nations, the crew of the  
11 *Africa Mercy* provides up to 7,000 surgical interventions onboard  
12 every year, including cataract removal, tumor removal, cleft lip  
13 and palate reconstruction, orthopaedic repair, and obstetric  
14 fistula repair; and

15           WHEREAS, Volunteers also go ashore to provide dental and oral  
16 health care education, immunizations, and lessons on a variety of  
17 community health issues; moreover, they offer palliative home care  
18 for terminally ill patients, as well as support for their families;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, Since its inception, the organization has directly  
21 served more than 2.16 million people, delivered services valued at  
22 more than \$748 million, and completed more than 900 construction  
23 and agriculture projects, including schools, clinics, and  
24 orphanages; and

1           WHEREAS, The founders, staff, and volunteers of Mercy Ships  
2 have had a profound impact on the fight for global health, and their  
3 tireless work in behalf of individuals in need around the world is  
4 truly an inspiration; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
6 Legislature hereby honor Mercy Ships for its outstanding  
7 contributions to global health and extend to all those associated  
8 with this remarkable organization sincere best wishes for continued  
9 success; and, be it further

10          RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for Mercy Ships as an expression of high regard by the  
12 Texas House of Representatives.