

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 929

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Mercy Ships, which for more than 30 years has delivered free, world-class health care services to those without access in more than 70 developing nations with its fleet of hospital ships; and

**WHEREAS**, Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens of Garden Valley, Texas, who were recently presented with the Variety Club Humanitarian Award in London by His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent; and

**WHEREAS**, The Variety Club Humanitarian Award is given to those who have shown unusual understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind, and it is acknowledged as one of the foremost honors an individual can receive; and

**WHEREAS**, Since its inception, Mercy Ships has made significant strides toward fulfilling its goal of bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor; through the years, it has served more than 2.16 million people, delivered services valued at more than \$748 million, and completed more than 900 construction and agriculture projects, including schools, clinics, and orphanages; and

**WHEREAS**, Mercy Ships operates the *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest nongovernmental hospital ship, which is equipped with six operating rooms and berth capacity for some 484 people; the ship and crew provide up to 7,000 surgical interventions onboard every year, including cataract and tumor removal, cleft lip and palate reconstruction, orthopedic repair, and obstetric fistula repair; and

**WHEREAS**, The crew of the *Africa Mercy* includes members from more than 35 nations; volunteers from the ship go ashore to provide dental and oral health care education, immunizations, and lessons on a variety of community health issues; they also offer palliative home care for terminally ill patients and support for their families; and

**WHEREAS**, The founders, staff, and volunteers of Mercy Ships have had a deep and lasting effect on the struggle for global health, and their compassion, their dedication, and their indefatigable efforts in behalf of those in need are truly an inspiration to us all; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby pay tribute to Mercy Ships on its exemplary contributions to global health and extend to all those associated with this extraordinary organization best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate