

By: Simpson

H.R. No. 1743

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Deborah Bell of Longview, the founder of Refuge  
2 International, truly merits special recognition for the many  
3 contributions she has made to the health and well-being of  
4 countless individuals through her humanitarian efforts; and

5           WHEREAS, In 2003, moved by what she saw during a volunteer  
6 trip to Guatemala, Ms. Bell started Refuge International, a  
7 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving lives in areas where  
8 such essentials as adequate health care, nutrition, and clean water  
9 are lacking or nonexistent; under her able guidance, the group  
10 leads numerous mission trips each year and has established  
11 permanent medical clinics in San Raymundo, Sarstun, and Chocoma,  
12 Guatemala; partially funded through the sale of items handmade in  
13 remote villages, Refuge International also digs wells, advances  
14 educational projects, distributes deworming medication, and works  
15 with government agencies to send Guatemalan children to the  
16 Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas for life-changing surgeries; and

17           WHEREAS, Ms. Bell's can-do attitude and boundless compassion  
18 also benefit residents of the Longview area, where she has served  
19 the local community for many years as a nurse practitioner;  
20 furthermore, in 2009, she forged a partnership between Refuge  
21 International and physicians, nurses, and students from Longview  
22 Emergency Medicine Associates and The University of Texas at Tyler  
23 to provide free medical care to the homeless population housed at  
24 Hiway 80 Rescue Mission; and

1           WHEREAS, In appreciation of her tireless efforts in behalf of  
2 others, this highly esteemed individual has received a number of  
3 accolades, including a 2005 Stand on a Better World Award, the 2007  
4 Texas Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award, and the 2012 Citizen of  
5 the Year Award from the Longview Rotary Club; and

6           WHEREAS, Deborah Bell's public-spiritedness and volunteerism  
7 are an inspiration to many people, and her commitment to enhancing  
8 the quality of life for people both locally and abroad has earned  
9 her the enduring respect and admiration of all who are privileged to  
10 know her; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby honor Deborah Bell for her outstanding service  
13 to those in need through her work with Refuge International and  
14 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Deborah Bell as an expression of high regard by the  
18 Texas House of Representatives.