

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1834

A RESOLUTION honoring and commemorating the Sisters of Mercy Hospitals in Kansas.

WHEREAS, Mercy Health Center, Fort Scott, celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary last year, Mercy Hospital of Independence celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on March 1, 2012 and Mercy Maude Norton of Columbus was established in 1917; and

WHEREAS, Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott was established when Sr. Theresa Dolan and Sr. Mary Delores Drew arrived in Fort Scott intending to establish a school, only to learn the community was in desperate need of a hospital instead. A small 10-bed hospital had been prepared and was waiting for operation. There had not been a hospital in the area for more than 30 years, and the closest one was 90 miles away in Kansas City. Mercy Hospital of Independence was founded in 1927 by the same order of the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Maude Norton Memorial City Hospital was established in 1917 and in November of 2009, the hospital joined with Sisters of Mercy Health System. In January of 2012, the hospital became known as Mercy Maude Norton of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Once a 10-bed hospital in downtown Fort Scott, the current Mercy Hospital now stands strong on a hill at the south end of Fort Scott. The state-of-the-art facility opened in 2002 following a \$2.2 million capital campaign; a testimony to the philanthropic support from individuals whose lives have been touched by the exceptional care at Mercy. Mercy now operates physician clinics in three counties in southeast Kansas; Bourbon, Linn and Crawford, as well as a multi-specialty clinic where patients see physician specialists who travel to Fort Scott to limit the need for patients to travel out of town; and

WHEREAS, Mercy's Independence-based facilities offer full-service primary inpatient and outpatient care; physician services through the Mercy Physician Group; home health services; outpatient rehabilitation; community fitness; and retail pharmacy services. In addition, Mercy sponsors a rural outreach health clinic, located in Cherryvale, which has just relocated and expanded to offer additional services, extended hours and a second provider; and

WHEREAS, The Maude Norton Memorial City Hospital was established in 1917 by the terms of William Norton's will. His home, located at 200 North Kansas Avenue, was donated to the city of Columbus for use as a hospital. It was dedicated to the memory of his daughter Maude, who died in a swimming accident in 1905. The Norton home, considered a mansion during that period, served as the hospital until 1952, when it was demolished and replaced by a more modern building. Several additions and remodeling projects have taken place over the years, but the hospital retains the charm and atmosphere unique to a period of time considered by many to be the Mercy "good old days"; and

WHEREAS, Over the years other service lines have been added to accommodate patients' growing health care needs. Mercy Home Health, Mercy Imaging Services, cancer care services, Mercy Urgent Care, Mercy Rehabilitation Services and Health for Life all focused around providing convenient access to the quality services Mercy patients have grown to appreciate. Mercy's plans for this decade include providing patients access to an even larger network of providers and services as well as incorporating the latest technology to make health care easier; and

WHEREAS, For 125 years Mercy has been steadfast yet dynamic; committed to and seeking out methods to serve the health care needs of the Fort Scott, Independence and Columbus communities and far beyond: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commend and congratulate the Sisters of Mercy Hospitals in Kansas for the compassionate and caring service that they have given to the citizens of rural Kansas over the last 125 years; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to each Sisters of Mercy Hospital in Kansas and Lynn Britton, CEO, Mercy Health of St. Louis, MO.

Senate Resolution No. 1834 was sponsored by Senators Umbarger, Marshall, Apple and King.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*