

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Captain John "Buck" Stephenson for his brave efforts in a rescue at sea of an injured crewman thrown overboard in heavy seas in the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2010, the M/V Ms Mia issued a Mayday distress call when a crewman was injured and thrown from the pitching deck into heavy seas off the shore of Cameron Parish; and

WHEREAS, at approximately 6:20 a.m., the crew of the Calcasieu Pass Pilot Boat received the distressed ship's radio call by way of a relay set up with Lake Charles Pilot, Unit 11; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Charles Pilot Boat immediately began calls for assistance from the United States Coast Guard operating in the area and began coordinating actions between the Ms Mia, the pilot boat, and the coast guard; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Charles Pilot Boat informed the two other vessels that there was a man overboard extraction unit on board and that the pilot boat, operating under the orders of Captain John "Buck" Stephenson, began making way at top speed to the scene of the accident; and

WHEREAS, upon reaching the location of the Ms Mia, Captain Stephenson lowered Mate Carson Fasske in the extraction device into the open seas where Fasske pulled the severely injured crewman into the device and both men were raised on to the swim platform of the pilot boat; and

WHEREAS, Captain Stephenson left the helm and with Mate Fasske, carried the injured crewman who had severe gashes to both sides of his neck, up the stairs to the main deck where first aid treatment was rendered; and

WHEREAS, Captain Stephenson returned to the helm and Mate Fasske worked on stopping the injured crewman's profuse bleeding and began efforts to combat the shock the crewman was suffering; and

WHEREAS, Mate Fasske stabilized the injured crewman, wrapped him in blankets, treated his shock, and began to apply pressure to stop the heavy bleeding from the neck wounds; and

WHEREAS, Captain Stephenson set a heading for Cameron, Louisiana, at top speed, while in constant radio contact with Coast Guard Houston and relaying conditions of the crewman and their location; and

WHEREAS, with Captain Stephenson at the wheel and a coast guard diver and Mate Fasske treating the injured crewman, a coast guard helicopter arrived on site, lowered a rescue basket, and flew the crewman to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, Texas, where he made a full recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its highest commendations to Captain John "Buck" Stephenson for his quick thinking, clear-headed and brave efforts during the rescue of an injured fellow seaman on the stormy seas of the Gulf of Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Captain John "Buck" Stephenson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE