

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is blessed with abundant
3 wildlife and natural resources, and for more than 125 years, Texas
4 game wardens have played a vital role in preserving and protecting
5 this rich legacy for all Texans; and

6 WHEREAS, The profession of Texas game warden has its roots in
7 the office of the Fish and Oyster Commissioner, which was created in
8 1895 by the 24th Texas Legislature; the first commissioner was I. P.
9 Kibbe, and he appointed several deputies, including William Henry
10 Sterling, one of the first conservation law enforcement officers in
11 the state; staff salaries--\$150 a month for the commissioner and up
12 to \$50 a month for the deputies--were funded by the sale of licenses
13 and permits; in 1899, the commission was given jurisdiction over
14 all public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds,
15 and four years later the agency's duties were expanded to include
16 commercial shrimping; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the years, the name of the agency has changed
18 several times; it was designated the office of the Game, Fish, and
19 Oyster Commissioner in 1907, the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission
20 in 1929, and the Game and Fish Commission in 1951; since 1963, the
21 agency has been known as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,
22 and in 1965, the professionals now known as Texas game wardens were
23 further tasked with enforcing recreational safety on all waters of
24 the state; in 1971, the 62nd Texas Legislature formally recognized

1 TPWD game wardens as peace officers, granting them full authority
2 to preserve the peace within Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, The ranks of game wardens in Texas have grown over
4 the years, from six officers in 1919 to more than 550 today; active
5 and retired game wardens joined together in 1979 to found the Texas
6 Game Warden Association and again in 2000 to establish the Game
7 Warden Peace Officers Association, with both organizations working
8 to further the vitality and the heritage of the profession; and

9 WHEREAS, The dedicated men and women who serve as game
10 wardens in the Lone Star State work tirelessly to safeguard the rich
11 bounty of our natural resources and to maintain them for the use and
12 enjoyment of present and future generations, and their exemplary
13 service is deeply appreciated by their fellow Texans; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby designate the third Tuesday in February as Texas Game Warden
17 Day; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
19 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
20 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
21 passed by the legislature.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 26 was adopted by the Senate on April 19, 2021, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 26 was adopted by the House on May 18, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor