

By: Murr

H.R. No. 103

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud members of the Justices of the Peace and  
2 Constables Association of Texas are gathering in Austin on  
3 February 7, 2023, for Justices of the Peace and Constables Day at  
4 the State Capitol; and

5           WHEREAS, The office of justice of the peace, first  
6 established in 1362 by King Edward of England, and the office of  
7 constable, first established in 1215 by King John of England, were  
8 two of the first offices established in the American colonies in  
9 1620; both offices were created by the Texas Constitution  
10 approximately two centuries later and continue to serve a vital  
11 role in the system of county government; and

12           WHEREAS, Justices of the peace are an integral part of the  
13 Texas judiciary; they exercise jurisdiction in criminal  
14 misdemeanor cases punishable by fine or sanctions and exercise  
15 civil jurisdiction in matters in controversy up to \$20,000;  
16 justices of the peace preside over those courts closest to the  
17 people; and

18           WHEREAS, Constables serve as officers of the court as  
19 bailiffs, execute civil and criminal process issued by Texas  
20 courts, and enforce criminal laws as certified peace officers; the  
21 first known constable to serve in Texas was appointed in 1823; and

22           WHEREAS, The men and women who accept the responsibilities of  
23 the offices of justice of the peace and constable perform their  
24 official duties with integrity, dedication, and the required

1 knowledge of the law, thereby contributing immeasurably to the  
2 justice system, the safety of the citizens of Texas, and the peace  
3 and order of our society; and

4 WHEREAS, For more than 75 years, the Justices of the Peace and  
5 Constables Association of Texas has represented the interests of  
6 justices of the peace, constables, and members of their staffs  
7 across the Lone Star State, and today the organization boasts a  
8 membership of over 2,000; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2023, as Justices of the  
11 Peace and Constables Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the  
14 Texas House of Representatives.