

By: Geren

H.R. No. 116

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Rangers celebrated its bicentennial on
2 January 13, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, The oldest state law enforcement agency in the
4 United States, the group known as the Texas Rangers was created in
5 1823 by Stephen F. Austin to provide protection for colonists, and
6 in 1835, the organization was formally established by a resolution
7 of Austin's Permanent Council; following the Texas Revolution, the
8 Congress of the Republic of Texas passed a law granting a battalion
9 of mounted riflemen to protect the frontier, principally against
10 Native Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, The Rangers achieved worldwide fame as a fighting
12 force during the Mexican War in 1846, and in the 1870s, they were
13 dispatched to subdue feuding and banditry and to help restore order
14 in areas along the Rio Grande; over the next several decades, the
15 need for frontier law enforcement waned, but after a series of
16 reforms in the 1920s, the Rangers were called upon to patrol for
17 smugglers, cattle rustlers, and other offenders, and they prevented
18 injury and property damage during demonstrations and tamed a number
19 of lawless oil boomtowns; and

20 WHEREAS, When the Texas Department of Public Safety was
21 created in 1935, the Texas Rangers joined a much larger law
22 enforcement team and became a highly effective state police force,
23 complete with a highway patrol, detectives, and a modern scientific
24 laboratory, and during World War II, they instructed civilians and

1 local police in the latest defense techniques for protecting
2 critical infrastructure from sabotage; today, the agency conducts
3 investigations in such areas as major violent crime, public
4 corruption, cold cases, and officer-involved shootings, and it
5 oversees the DPS border security operations, as well as the
6 department's tactical and crisis negotiation programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the last 200 years, this renowned organization
8 has secured its place in the colorful history of the Lone Star
9 State, and the dedicated men and women of the Texas Rangers continue
10 to play an instrumental role in ensuring the safety and security of
11 their fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the bicentennial of the Texas
14 Rangers and extend to the agency's members sincere best wishes for
15 continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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