

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Throughout the State of Texas, justices of the peace  
2 and constables play a vital role in local government; and

3           WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution provides for each of these  
4 offices, both of which originated many centuries ago; in England,  
5 the office of constable was first established by King John in 1215  
6 and that of justice of the peace by King Edward III in 1362; the two  
7 offices made their appearance in the American colonies in 1620,  
8 where they were among the first civil posts to be created; and

9           WHEREAS, Justices of the peace are an integral part of the  
10 Texas judiciary; the courts over which they preside were first  
11 established in Texas in 1836, when Texas became a republic, and are  
12 the courts that are closest to the people; justices of the peace  
13 exercise jurisdiction in criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by  
14 fine or sanctions only and hear civil cases where the amount in  
15 dispute does not exceed \$5,000; and

16           WHEREAS, The office of constable was first created in Texas  
17 in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin, while Texas was still a part of  
18 Mexico; constables serve as the executive officers of the justice  
19 of the peace courts, acting as bailiffs, executing civil and  
20 criminal process issued by Texas courts, and enforcing criminal  
21 laws as certified peace officers; and

22           WHEREAS, In order to fulfill their myriad and demanding  
23 responsibilities, justices of the peace and constables undergo  
24 extensive training; constables are licensed by the Texas Commission

1 on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, and justices of  
2 the peace are certified through the Texas Justice Court Training  
3 Center at Southwest Texas State University; and

4 WHEREAS, The men and women who serve as justice of the peace  
5 and constable are skilled individuals who perform the duties of  
6 their office with integrity and dedication, and they contribute  
7 immeasurably to the justice system, the safety of the citizens of  
8 Texas, and the peace and order of our society; and

9 WHEREAS, These officials and their staffs are ably  
10 represented by the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association  
11 of Texas, Inc. (JPCA); with a membership numbering more than 4,000  
12 public servants, JPCA has provided a corporate voice for constables  
13 and justices of the peace for nearly 50 years; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby proclaim March 25, 2003, as JPCA Day in Texas and extend to  
16 all Texas constables and justices of the peace its deep  
17 appreciation for their invaluable service to the people of the Lone  
18 Star State.

Lewis

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 109 was adopted by the House on March 25, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 109 was adopted by the Senate on March 25, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor