

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 109

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, and justices of the peace are certified through
2 the Texas Justice Court Training Center at Southwest Texas State
3 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.