

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 74**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Sheriffs' Association of Texas and to proclaim February 12, 2003, as Sheriffs' Association of Texas Day at the Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sheriffs' Association of Texas is one of the nation's oldest law enforcement organizations; the first meeting of the group took place at the Navarro County courthouse in Corsicana on August 14, 1874; the meeting was called to order by Sul Ross, the sheriff of McLennan County who later became an important historical figure in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, At the meeting, association members adopted their preamble; the document called for sheriffs to assist one another in the execution of laws, in the discharge of their duties against criminals, and in the protection of the citizens in their respective counties and throughout the state; the group has continued to follow the dictates of this mission; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Constitution created our state's office of sheriff; legislation requires that a sheriff function as a peace officer who conserves peace and enforces the criminal laws of the state; moreover, the sheriff is responsible for the county jail, bail bonds, civil process, and the security of the courts; in some smaller counties, the sheriff may also act as the tax collector; and

**WHEREAS**, The office of sheriff is one of the oldest forms of law enforcement; sheriffs in our state's 254 counties are elected to four-year terms, and each sheriff is a member of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas; in addition, 2,575 individuals are active members of the group, and another 52,471 individuals are associate members; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sheriffs' Association of Texas ensures that officers carry out their duties skillfully and professionally by frequently offering training programs and by conducting an annual training conference; the annual conference is considered the largest composite gathering of law enforcement officers in Texas; it is attended by sheriffs, members of other federal and state law enforcement agencies, and major industry security personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, The association also offers scholarships to eligible students pursuing degrees at a college or university and to Texas peace officers pursuing academic degrees; the association's training programs and scholarships help to ensure the safety of our citizens and the security of communities across our state; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the Sheriffs' Association of Texas for its many contributions to our state and extend best wishes to its members on the occasion of Sheriffs' Association of Texas Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the association as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 12, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate