

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 389

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, one  
2 of the nation's oldest law enforcement organizations, are gathering  
3 in Austin on February 17, 2005, to participate in Sheriffs'  
4 Association of Texas Day at the Capitol; and

5           WHEREAS, The first meeting of this esteemed association took  
6 place at the Navarro County Courthouse in Corsicana on August 14,  
7 1874; the meeting was called to order by Sul Ross, the sheriff of  
8 McLennan County who later became an important historical figure in  
9 Texas; and

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

16           WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution created the office of sheriff  
17 in each county of the state; legislation requires that a sheriff  
18 function as a peace officer who conserves peace and enforces the  
19 criminal laws of the state; moreover, the sheriff is responsible  
20 for the county jail, bail bonds, civil process, and the security of  
21 the courts; in some smaller counties, the sheriff may also act as  
22 the tax collector; and

23           WHEREAS, The office of sheriff is one of the oldest forms of  
24 law enforcement; sheriffs in our state's 254 counties are elected

1 to four-year terms, and each sheriff is a member of the Sheriffs'  
2 Association of Texas; in addition, 2,768 individuals are active  
3 members of the group, and another 46,520 individuals are associate  
4 members; and

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 17, 2005, as Sheriffs'  
20 Association of Texas Day at the Capitol and commend the members of  
21 the Sheriffs' Association of Texas for their many contributions to  
22 our state; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the  
25 Texas House of Representatives.