

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The office of justice of the peace, originally
2 created in 1362 by King Edward of England, and the office of
3 constable, created in 1215 by King John of England, were two of the
4 first offices established in the American colonies in 1620; and

5 WHEREAS, Both offices were created by the Texas Constitution
6 and serve a vital role in the delivery of county government
7 responsibilities to citizens on the local level; and

8 WHEREAS, Justices of the peace are an integral part of the
9 Texas judiciary; they exercise jurisdiction in criminal
10 misdemeanor cases punishable by fine or sanctions and exercise
11 civil jurisdiction in matters in controversy under \$5,000; first
12 established as "grass roots" courts in 1836, when Texas became a
13 republic, they preside over those courts closest to the people; and

14 WHEREAS, Constables serve as officers of the court as
15 bailiffs, execute civil and criminal process issued by Texas
16 courts, and enforce criminal laws as certified peace officers; they
17 were first documented in Texas by Stephen F. Austin in 1823, when
18 Texas was still under Mexican rule; and

19 WHEREAS, The Justices of the Peace and Constables Association
20 of Texas, Inc., has represented the interests of more than 4,000
21 Texas justices of the peace, constables, and members of their
22 staffs for nearly 50 years; and

23 WHEREAS, The men and women who accept the responsibilities of
24 the offices of justice of the peace and constable perform their

1 duties with integrity, dedication, and required knowledge of the
2 law, thereby contributing immeasurably to the justice system, the
3 safety of Texans, and the peace and order of our society; and

4 WHEREAS, The dedication of a special day at the Capitol to
5 focus attention on these public officials heightens awareness of
6 the important contributions they make benefiting citizens across
7 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2005, as Justices of the
10 Peace and Constables Day, welcome the visiting members of the
11 association to the State Capitol, and commend the justices of the
12 peace and constables throughout the state for their service in
13 behalf of their fellow Texans; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association
16 of Texas, Inc., as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
17 of Representatives.

Allen of Dallas

H.R. No. 545

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 545 was adopted by the House on March 1, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House