

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 2110

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The office of fish and oyster commissioner was
2 created by the 24th Texas Legislature in 1895 to enforce the fish
3 and oyster laws of this state; and

4 WHEREAS, I. P. Kibbe was selected as the first commissioner,
5 at a salary of \$150 per month, and he appointed deputies, including
6 William Henry Sterling, one of the first conservation law
7 enforcement officers in Texas, who earned a salary of up to \$50 per
8 month, garnered from the sale of licenses and permits; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1899, the Fish and Oyster Commission was given
10 jurisdiction over all public waters, including freshwater streams,
11 lakes, and ponds, and four years later the commission's duties were
12 expanded to include commercial shrimping; and

13 WHEREAS, The agency has undergone several name changes
14 through the years; designated the Game, Fish, and Oyster
15 Commissioner in 1907, Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission in 1929,
16 and Game and Fish Commission in 1951, it was renamed the Texas Parks
17 and Wildlife Department in 1963; and

18 WHEREAS, Two years later, the professionals now known as
19 Texas game wardens were assigned the duty of promoting recreational
20 water safety for persons and property in all recreational waters of
21 the state; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1971, game wardens were formally recognized as
23 Texas peace officers, with full duties and powers to preserve peace
24 within the state, when the 62nd Texas Legislature extended that

1 designation to all law enforcement officers commissioned by the
2 Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission; and

3 WHEREAS, The modern-day equivalent of those early deputy fish
4 and oyster commissioners, Texas game wardens have grown in number
5 from six in 1919 to nearly 500 today; expanding their role to
6 include water-safety enforcement 40 years ago, these dedicated men
7 and women and their predecessors have played a vital role in
8 wildlife conservation for more than a century; now, therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of the 79th Texas Legislature hereby
11 honor Texas game wardens for 110 years of service to the Lone Star
12 State and commend them for their efforts to safeguard the natural
13 resources of this state for the use and enjoyment of present and
14 future generations; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Texas game wardens as an expression of high regard by
17 the Texas House.