

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 more than 60 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 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2009, as Justices of the
10 Peace and Constables Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard from
13 the Texas House of Representatives.

Fletcher

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Pena
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 443

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 443 was adopted by the House on
February 25, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House