

By: Fletcher

H.R. No. 443

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.