

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 515

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 play a vital role in the delivery of county government services;
7 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 \$10,000; 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, Established in 1945, the Justices of the Peace and
20 Constables Association of Texas represents the interests of Texas
21 justices of the peace and constables, as well as their clerks and
22 deputies; and

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

1 immeasurably to the justice system, the safety of Texans, and the
2 peace and order of our society, and the dedication of a special day
3 at the Capitol to focus attention on these public officials
4 heightens awareness of the important contributions they make
5 benefiting citizens across the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2011, as Justices of the
9 Peace and Constables Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

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