

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 523

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The office of justice of the peace, first
2 established in 1362 by King Edward of England, and the office of
3 constable, first established in 1215 by King John of England, were
4 two of the first offices established in the American colonies in
5 1620; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, The men and women who accept the responsibilities of
22 the offices of justice of the peace and constable perform the duties
23 of their office with integrity, dedication, and the required
24 knowledge of the law, thereby contributing immeasurably to the

1 justice system, the safety of the citizens of Texas, and the peace
2 and order of our society; and

3 WHEREAS, The Justices of the Peace and Constables Association
4 of Texas, Incorporated, has represented the interests of more than
5 4,000 Texas justices of the peace, constables, and members of their
6 staffs for over 60 years; and

7 WHEREAS, The dedication of a special day to focus attention
8 on the contributions of these public officials will benefit the
9 citizens of Texas; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2013, as Justices of the
12 Peace and Constables Day, welcome the visiting members of the
13 Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas,
14 Incorporated, to the State Capitol, and commend the justices of the
15 peace and constables for serving and protecting the citizens of
16 Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association
19 of Texas, Incorporated, as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.