

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 878

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is marking  
2 its 50th anniversary in 2013, and this milestone provides a fitting  
3 opportunity to recognize its accomplishments; and

4           WHEREAS, On August 23, 1963, the 58th Texas Legislature  
5 merged the operations of the Texas Game and Fish Commission and the  
6 State Parks Board to create the Parks and Wildlife Department; the  
7 new agency's first challenge was to improve and expand the park  
8 system, and between 1968 and 1976, the acreage of parkland owned by  
9 the state was nearly doubled; and

10           WHEREAS, Parks and Wildlife assumed responsibility for the  
11 administration of the Texas Water Safety Act and of the Land and  
12 Water Conservation Fund beginning in the 1960s and later  
13 implemented the provisions of the Texas Endangered Species and  
14 Wildlife Conservation Acts; and

15           WHEREAS, By the late 1980s, the Texas parks system  
16 encompassed well over 400,000 acres, including parks, natural  
17 areas, and historic sites; the department also protected and  
18 managed the fish population in more than 600 public reservoirs and  
19 16,000 miles of streams and rivers, as well as along 370 miles of  
20 coastline; and

21           WHEREAS, Park use continued to rise, with more than 20  
22 million people visiting on an annual basis by the 1990s; the  
23 agency's staff and administration have worked diligently through  
24 the years to meet the challenges presented by population growth and

1 urbanization, partnering with diverse entities to conserve natural  
2 and cultural resources and enhance opportunities for outdoor  
3 recreation; and

4       WHEREAS, Over the past half-century, the vital endeavors of  
5 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have enriched the lives of  
6 innumerable citizens, and the agency has earned the profound  
7 appreciation of all who treasure the natural beauty of the Lone Star  
8 State; now, therefore, be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the  
11 establishment of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and honor  
12 the staff and administration for their hard work and dedication on  
13 its behalf; and, be it further

14       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for the department as an expression of high regard by the  
16 Texas House of Representatives.