

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 471

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many dedicated officers of the Texas Parks and
2 Wildlife Department are visiting Austin on February 12, 2015, to
3 celebrate Texas Game Warden Day at the State Capitol and to
4 commemorate 120 years of service to the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1895, when the office of Fish and Oyster
6 Commissioner was created by the 24th Texas Legislature, game
7 wardens have played an essential role in wildlife conservation; the
8 Fish and Oyster Commission was given jurisdiction in 1899 over all
9 public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds, and
10 its purview was soon extended to shrimping and hunting; and

11 WHEREAS, The name of the agency later became the Game, Fish,
12 and Oyster Commission, and it changed again several times to
13 reflect the expansion of its mission until, in 1963, it merged with
14 the State Parks Board to form the current agency; in 1919, there
15 were just six wardens, but their numbers grew as their duties
16 continued to evolve, encompassing such tasks as the promotion of
17 recreational water safety and the apprehension of criminals
18 involved in a range of illegal activities in addition to wildlife
19 law violations; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1971, the legislature formally recognized as
21 peace officers all law enforcement officers within the Texas Parks
22 and Wildlife Department; the state is served today by some 530 game
23 wardens, whose responsibilities have grown to include
24 participation in homeland security initiatives on the state's

1 border with Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, For well over a century, game wardens have enforced
3 natural resource conservation laws in the Lone Star State, and
4 their vital contributions have earned the deep appreciation of all
5 Texans; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize February 12, 2015, as Texas Game
8 Warden Day at the State Capitol and honor these outstanding
9 professionals as they commemorate 120 years of public service.