

By: Wray

H.R. No. 517

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 system of county government; 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 up to \$10,000;
12 justices of the peace preside over those courts closest to the
13 people, first established as "grass roots" courts in 1836 when
14 Texas became a republic; and

15 WHEREAS, Constables serve as officers of the court as
16 bailiffs, execute civil and criminal process issued by Texas
17 courts, and enforce criminal laws as certified peace officers; the
18 first known constable to serve in Texas was appointed in 1823, when
19 Texas was still under Mexican rule; and

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

1 and order of our society; and

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

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

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 17, 2015, as Justices of the
11 Peace and Constables Day, welcome the visiting members of the
12 Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas to the
13 State Capitol, and commend the justices of the peace and constables
14 for serving and protecting the citizens of Texas; and, be it further

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