

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 2341

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many retired Texas game wardens and their spouses
2 are visiting Austin on May 20, 2015, to celebrate Retired Texas Game
3 Warden Day at the State Capitol and to commemorate the 120 years of
4 dedicated service that game wardens have provided to the Lone Star
5 State; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 1895, when the office of Fish and Oyster
7 Commissioner was created by the 24th Texas Legislature, game
8 wardens have played an essential role in wildlife conservation; the
9 Fish and Oyster Commission was given jurisdiction in 1899 over all
10 public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds, and
11 its purview was soon extended to shrimping and hunting; the name of
12 the agency later became the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, and
13 it changed again several times to reflect the expansion of its
14 mission until, in 1963, it merged with the State Parks Board to form
15 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and

16 WHEREAS, In the early years, there were just six wardens, but
17 their numbers grew as their duties continued to evolve,
18 encompassing such tasks as the promotion of recreational water
19 safety and the apprehension of criminals involved in a range of
20 illegal activities in addition to wildlife law violations; Texas
21 A&M University established the Texas Game Warden Academy in 1946,
22 and 14 cadets attended that first formal game warden training; in
23 1971, the legislature formally recognized as peace officers all law
24 enforcement officers within the TPWD; the state is presently served

1 by some 530 game wardens, whose responsibilities have grown to
2 include participation in homeland security initiatives; and

3 WHEREAS, Today there are approximately 340 retired Texas game
4 wardens living with their families in the Lone Star State, and their
5 vital contributions to the betterment of this state have earned
6 them the deep appreciation of all Texans; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize May 20, 2015, as Retired Texas Game
9 Warden Day at the State Capitol and commemorate 120 years of public
10 service by Texas game wardens.