

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Texas game wardens devote themselves to the  
2 protection of the state's natural resources, and since 1895, 18 of  
3 these dedicated public servants have tragically lost their lives  
4 while fulfilling their important duties; and

5           WHEREAS, Game wardens, as certified peace officers, are  
6 responsible for preserving the peace and enforcing the game, fish,  
7 and water safety laws of Texas, which include, but are not limited  
8 to, apprehending poachers and other individuals who ignore wildlife  
9 law; many of the criminals that game wardens encounter have also  
10 ventured into other illegal activities, such as theft or the drug  
11 trade, and because game wardens are often patrolling areas with  
12 hunters, loaded guns are a constant in their work; the myriad  
13 challenges of the job may put them in harm's way at any time; and

14           WHEREAS, To honor those who died in the line of duty, the  
15 Texas Game Warden Association erected the Game Warden Memorial at  
16 the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens; the monument, a  
17 bronze, life-sized statue of a warden, is dedicated to the memory of  
18 Joe Williams, Harry Raymond, Dawson Richard Murchison, R. M. Wynne,  
19 Gus Engeling, Claude Keller, J. D. Murphree, Joe Evans, Lloyd  
20 Gustin, Ronnie Germany, James Daughtrey, Barry Decker, Bruce Hill,  
21 Michael Pauling, Wes Wagstaff, Justin Hurst, Teyran "Ty" Patterson,  
22 and George Harold Whatley Jr.; and

23           WHEREAS, Many Texans are unaware of the sacrifices made by  
24 game wardens; the relocation of the monument to the State Capitol,

1 however, would help the public gain a greater understanding of the  
2 vital mission of Texas game wardens and of the extraordinary  
3 commitment they make to upholding the laws of our state and  
4 protecting its natural resources; now, therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
6 hereby authorize the State Preservation Board, subject to state law  
7 and rules of the board, to approve the relocation of the Texas Game  
8 Warden Memorial to the State Capitol Complex, at a site outside of  
9 the historic Capitol grounds; and, be it further

10         RESOLVED, That the board consider a site south of the Sam  
11 Houston Building for the location of the memorial; and, be it  
12 further

13         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an  
14 official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the  
15 State Preservation Board and to the chair and president of the Texas  
16 Game Warden Association.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 53 was adopted by the House on April 20, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 53 was adopted by the Senate on May 11, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor