

By: Gooden

H.C.R. No. 53

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.