

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 2534

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rod Welsh concluded his tenure as the house
2 sergeant-at-arms on October 31, 2016, drawing to a close more than
3 three decades of exemplary service to the Texas House of
4 Representatives; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth and a graduate of The
6 University of Texas, Mr. Welsh first joined the Office of the House
7 Sergeant-at-Arms for the 69th Legislature in 1985, when the chamber
8 was being guided by Speaker Gib Lewis; beginning as assistant
9 sergeant, he was mentored by Sergeant-at-Arms Ron Hinkle and by Ann
10 Harlow, who served the office in a number of capacities through the
11 years; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Welsh went on to hold the positions of
13 doorkeeper and floor supervisor, and he was first appointed as
14 sergeant-at-arms in 1993 for the 73rd Session; over the course of
15 the next quarter century, he became the longest-serving
16 sergeant-at-arms in the history of the Texas Legislature; in
17 addition to Speaker Lewis, he worked for three other speakers, Pete
18 Laney, Tom Craddick, and Joe Straus, each of whom came to rely on
19 his expertise and precise attention to detail; and

20 WHEREAS, During his time as sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Welsh was
21 responsible for maintaining order in the house chamber and meeting
22 rooms, securing the attendance of members, and assisting all house
23 officers in carrying out their administrative duties; he also
24 managed the operations of the sergeant's office, ensuring the

1 success of the day-to-day functions of the chamber; and

2 WHEREAS, Since leaving the house sergeant's office,
3 Mr. Welsh has continued to serve the Lone Star State in his new
4 position as executive director of the State Preservation Board,
5 where he oversees the preservation and maintenance of the Texas
6 Capitol and its grounds, as well as the Governor's Mansion, the
7 Texas State Cemetery, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Rod Welsh's dedication, professionalism, and
10 commitment to public service greatly benefited the members of the
11 Texas House of Representatives as well as all citizens of the Lone
12 Star State, and his contributions are indeed deserving of special
13 recognition; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commend Rod Welsh for his service to the Office
16 of the House Sergeant-at-Arms and extend to him sincere best wishes
17 for the future; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mr. Welsh as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.