H.R. No. 1936

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas Rangers is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its founding in 2023, providing a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to one of the most legendary law enforcement organizations in the world; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1820s Stephen F. Austin saw a need to protect the families of settlers he was bringing to Texas, and in 1823, he established a minuteman-style guard called the Rangers; and

WHEREAS, In 1835 an official corps of 60 men was created, called the Texas Rangers, to safeguard settlements from Indian attack during the Texas Revolution; after the defeat of General Santa Anna's army at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, the Republic of Texas raised a battalion of 280 mounted riflemen to defend the frontier; more companies were soon added, and Rangers began to patrol along the border and throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, During the latter part of the 19th century, Rangers were organized in companies under the command of a captain, lieutenant, or sergeant, and over time, their duties changed from serving as soldiers to becoming law enforcement officers, tracking train robbers, highwaymen, horse thieves, cattle rustlers, and other outlaws; and

WHEREAS, In 1935, the Texas Rangers became part of the new Texas Department of Public Safety, and today it is an elite unit with statewide responsibility for investigating major crimes, unsolved and serial crimes, public corruption, and officer shooting incidents; the group also plays a role in border security, and it maintains a special weapons and tactics team, a regional special response team, and a crisis negotiation unit, among others; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Rangers has often been portrayed in popular culture, as the exploits of Rangers during the Texas Revolution, the frontier era of the Old West, and the age of gangsters and bank robbers in the 1930s have become the stuff of countless books, films, and television programs; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco has been designated as the official historical center of the Rangers by the Texas Legislature and the Texas Public Safety Commission, and in 2023, the museum will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the oldest police agency on the North American continent; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of two centuries, the Texas Rangers has become one of the most iconic institutions of the Lone Star State, and the Rangers' reputation for courage, determination, and dedication to duty remains unparalleled in the history of law enforcement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success with their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Texas Rangers as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Raymond

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1936 was adopted by the House on May 24, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House