

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 253

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many dedicated officers and honorably retired
2 officers of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are visiting
3 Austin on February 19, 2019, to celebrate Texas Game Warden Day in
4 conjunction with the annual Texas Game Warden and Game Warden Peace
5 Officer Association Conference at the State Capitol; 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; and

12 WHEREAS, The name of the agency later became the Game, Fish,
13 and Oyster Commission, and it changed again several times to
14 reflect the expansion of its mission until, in 1963, it merged with
15 the State Parks Board to form the current agency; in 1919, there
16 were just six wardens, but their numbers grew as their duties
17 continued to evolve, encompassing such tasks as the promotion of
18 recreational water safety and the apprehension of criminals
19 involved in a range of illegal activities in addition to wildlife
20 law violations; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1971, the legislature formally recognized as
22 peace officers all law enforcement officers within the Texas Parks
23 and Wildlife Department; the state is served today by some 550 game
24 wardens, whose responsibilities have grown to include

1 participation in homeland security initiatives on the state's
2 border with Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, For well over a century, game wardens have enforced
4 natural resource conservation laws in the Lone Star State, and
5 their vital contributions have earned the deep appreciation of all
6 Texans; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Texas Game
9 Warden Day at the State Capitol and honor these outstanding
10 professionals as they commemorate 124 years of public service.