

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 256

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Justices of the Peace and
2 Constables Association of Texas are gathering in Austin on February
3 12, 2019, for Justices of the Peace and Constables Day at the State
4 Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, The office of justice of the peace, first
6 established in 1362 by King Edward of England, and the office of
7 constable, first established in 1215 by King John of England, were
8 two of the first offices established in the American colonies in
9 1620; both offices were created by the Texas Constitution
10 approximately two centuries later and continue to serve a vital
11 role in the system of county government; and

12 WHEREAS, Justices of the peace are an integral part of the
13 Texas judiciary; they exercise jurisdiction in criminal
14 misdemeanor cases punishable by fine or sanctions and exercise
15 civil jurisdiction in matters in controversy up to \$10,000;
16 justices of the peace preside over those courts closest to the
17 people, first established as "grass roots" courts in 1836 when
18 Texas became a republic; and

19 WHEREAS, Constables serve as officers of the court as
20 bailiffs, execute civil and criminal process issued by Texas
21 courts, and enforce criminal laws as certified peace officers; the
22 first known constable to serve in Texas was appointed in 1823, when
23 the region was still under Mexican rule; and

24 WHEREAS, The men and women who accept the responsibilities of

1 the offices of justice of the peace and constable perform their
2 official duties with integrity, dedication, and the required
3 knowledge of the law, thereby contributing immeasurably to the
4 justice system, the safety of the citizens of Texas, and the peace
5 and order of our society; and

6 WHEREAS, For more than 75 years, the Justices of the Peace and
7 Constables Association of Texas has represented the interests of
8 justices of the peace, constables, and members of their staffs
9 across the Lone Star State, and today the organization boasts a
10 membership of over 2,000; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize February 12, 2019, as Justices of the
13 Peace and Constables Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

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