

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 1936

R E S O L U T I O N

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

5 WHEREAS, In the early 1820s Stephen F. Austin saw a need to
6 protect the families of settlers he was bringing to Texas, and in
7 1823, he established a minuteman-style guard called the Rangers;
8 and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, In 1935, the Texas Rangers became part of the new
23 Texas Department of Public Safety, and today it is an elite unit
24 with statewide responsibility for investigating major crimes,

1 unsolved and serial crimes, public corruption, and officer shooting
2 incidents; the group also plays a role in border security, and it
3 maintains a special weapons and tactics team, a regional special
4 response team, and a crisis negotiation unit, among others; and

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

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

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

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

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