

1 WHEREAS, Today, game wardens patrol the public waters of
2 Texas to enforce hunting and fishing regulations and to promote
3 water safety; they have expanded their ranks from six officers in
4 1919 to more than 500, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's
5 fleet has grown to include more than 590 vessels, including two
6 65-foot patrol boats in the Gulf of Mexico and 26 SAFE boats for use
7 along the Gulf Coast; in 2013, Texas game wardens were accredited by
8 the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators for
9 their adherence to the United States Coast Guard's national
10 standards for training, qualifications, and credentialing; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition, Texas game wardens play a crucial role
12 in homeland security and emergency management, including search,
13 rescue, and recovery efforts; in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
14 in 2005, they were the first out-of-state peace officers to be
15 deployed to New Orleans, where they were directly involved in the
16 rescue of 4,940 people from houses, apartments, and hospitals, and
17 during Hurricane Harvey, they rescued more than 12,000 Texans from
18 the storm's floodwaters; in 2014, they took part in Operation
19 Strong Safety, a homeland security initiative along the
20 Texas-Mexico border; and

21 WHEREAS, The dedicated men and women who safeguard the public
22 waters of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future
23 generations truly deserve to be known as our "Lone Star Navy," and
24 these individuals indeed merit recognition for their vital
25 contributions; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
27 hereby recognize the game wardens of the Texas Parks and Wildlife

1 Department as the "Lone Star Navy" and commend them for their
2 outstanding work as maritime safety enforcement officers; and, be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as an
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and
7 Senate.