

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

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

WHEREAS, Since 1895, when the office of Fish and Oyster Commissioner was created by the 24th Texas Legislature, game wardens have played an essential role in wildlife conservation; the Fish and Oyster Commission was given jurisdiction in 1899 over all public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds, and its purview was soon extended to shrimping and hunting; and

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

WHEREAS, In 1971, the legislature formally recognized as peace officers all law enforcement officers within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; the state is served today by some 550 game wardens, whose responsibilities have grown to include participation in homeland security initiatives on the state's border with Mexico; and

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

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

Flores

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate