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By:  Vasut H.R. No. 1276

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, William Orton, former Matagorda County constable for Precinct 6, is being honored as Constable of the Year by the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas at its annual education conference, which is taking place June 21-25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, A law enforcement veteran with more than 24 years of experience, Bill Orton began his career as a reserve peace officer with the Galena Park Police Department; he went on to serve with the Matagorda County Sheriff's Office from 1997 until 2009, and he continued his work as a deputy constable in Precinct 6 from 2008 until he was elected constable in 2016; at the time he assumed his duties as constable, he had no deputies, but his office grew to employ 10 on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Orton has been hailed for his innovative approach to public safety; tasked with overseeing security at the Matagorda County Courthouse, he installed a state-of-the-art security system, which was later expanded and implemented in other offices and areas of Matagorda County; he also assisted school districts and churches throughout the county in improving their security measures, and he worked with his county commissioner to outfit his precinct and other constables' offices in the county with additional patrol vehicles and equipment; and

WHEREAS, Certified as a marine safety enforcement officer, Mr. Orton has taught boater education for over a decade; when Hurricane Harvey made landfall in the county, he corresponded with State Representative Dennis Bonnen to secure needed resources for his community; he has also testified in support of legislation to benefit the safety of the area; he currently serves on the Constable's Education Committee for the Texas Justice Court Training Center; and

WHEREAS, Bill Orton has set a standard of leadership to which others may aspire, and his contributions to the security of Matagorda County have earned him the profound respect and admiration of his peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate William Orton on being selected as Constable of the Year by the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Orton as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.