

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 204

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas game wardens have protected their fellow
2 citizens and the state's natural resources for 125 years; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1895, the 24th Texas Legislature established the
4 office of Fish and Oyster Commissioner to enforce laws related to
5 those industries; four years later, it gave the Fish and Oyster
6 Commission jurisdiction over all public waters, including
7 freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds, and it later added commercial
8 shrimping to the portfolio; and

9 WHEREAS, The agency underwent several name changes before
10 1963, when it became the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; in
11 that era, wardens were first charged with promoting recreational
12 water safety; the legislature designated game wardens as Texas
13 peace officers in 1971, and eight years later, TPWD hired its first
14 female game warden; and

15 WHEREAS, In the past decade, game wardens have formed
16 specialized teams to expand their capabilities; these include
17 underwater and swift-water recovery, forensic accident
18 reconstruction, and unmanned aerial surveillance; a K-9 unit was
19 launched in 2013, and game wardens have played a vital role in
20 rescue and recovery following such disasters as Hurricanes Ike and
21 Harvey; and

22 WHEREAS, A force once small in size and scope, game wardens
23 now number more than 550, and they have been called "the Swiss Army
24 knife of Texas law enforcement"; many have aided the COVID-19

1 pandemic response, delivering personal protective equipment,
2 conveying samples to labs, and assisting at testing sites; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the course of more than a century, game wardens
4 have worked tirelessly to safeguard the state's natural resources
5 while taking on increasing responsibilities, and in so doing, they
6 have earned the lasting respect and appreciation of past, present,
7 and future generations of fellow Texans; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor Texas game wardens for 125 years of
10 service to the Lone Star State and extend to them sincere best
11 wishes for continued success in their endeavors; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Texas game wardens as an expression of high regard by
14 the Texas House of Representatives.