

By: Springer

S.C.R. No. 26

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is blessed with abundant
2 wildlife and natural resources, and for more than 125 years, Texas
3 game wardens have played a vital role in preserving and protecting
4 this rich legacy for all Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, The profession of Texas game warden has its roots in
6 the office of the Fish and Oyster Commissioner, which was created in
7 1895 by the 24th Texas Legislature; the first commissioner was I. P.
8 Kibbe, and he appointed several deputies, including William Henry
9 Sterling, one of the first conservation law enforcement officers in
10 the state; staff salaries--\$150 a month for the commissioner and up
11 to \$50 a month for the deputies--were funded by the sale of licenses
12 and permits; in 1899, the commission was given jurisdiction over
13 all public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds,
14 and four years later the agency's duties were expanded to include
15 commercial shrimping; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the years, the name of the agency has changed
17 several times; it was designated the office of the Game, Fish, and
18 Oyster Commissioner in 1907, the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission
19 in 1929, and the Game and Fish Commission in 1951; since 1963, the
20 agency has been known as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,
21 and in 1965, the professionals now known as Texas game wardens were
22 further tasked with enforcing recreational safety on all waters of
23 the state; in 1971, the 62nd Texas Legislature formally recognized
24 TPWD game wardens as peace officers, granting them full authority

1 to preserve the peace within Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, The ranks of game wardens in Texas have grown over
3 the years, from six officers in 1919 to more than 550 today; active
4 and retired game wardens joined together in 1979 to found the Texas
5 Game Warden Association and again in 2000 to establish the Game
6 Warden Peace Officers Association, with both organizations working
7 to further the vitality and the heritage of the profession; and

8 WHEREAS, The dedicated men and women who serve as game
9 wardens in the Lone Star State work tirelessly to safeguard the rich
10 bounty of our natural resources and to maintain them for the use and
11 enjoyment of present and future generations, and their exemplary
12 service is deeply appreciated by their fellow Texans; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate the third Tuesday in February as Texas Game Warden
16 Day; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
18 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
19 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
20 passed by the legislature.