

1-1 By: Gooden (Senate Sponsor - Nichols) H.C.R. No. 53
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2017;
 1-3 May 3, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Administration; May 9, 2017, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 9, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, Texas game wardens devote themselves to the
 1-17 protection of the state's natural resources, and since 1895, 18 of
 1-18 these dedicated public servants have tragically lost their lives
 1-19 while fulfilling their important duties; and

1-20 WHEREAS, Game wardens, as certified peace officers, are
 1-21 responsible for preserving the peace and enforcing the game, fish,
 1-22 and water safety laws of Texas, which include, but are not limited
 1-23 to, apprehending poachers and other individuals who ignore wildlife
 1-24 law; many of the criminals that game wardens encounter have also
 1-25 ventured into other illegal activities, such as theft or the drug
 1-26 trade, and because game wardens are often patrolling areas with
 1-27 hunters, loaded guns are a constant in their work; the myriad
 1-28 challenges of the job may put them in harm's way at any time; and

1-29 WHEREAS, To honor those who died in the line of duty, the
 1-30 Texas Game Warden Association erected the Game Warden Memorial at
 1-31 the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens; the monument, a
 1-32 bronze, life-sized statue of a warden, is dedicated to the memory of
 1-33 Joe Williams, Harry Raymond, Dawson Richard Murchison, R. M. Wynne,
 1-34 Gus Engeling, Claude Keller, J. D. Murphree, Joe Evans, Lloyd
 1-35 Gustin, Ronnie Germany, James Daughtrey, Barry Decker, Bruce Hill,
 1-36 Michael Pauling, Wes Wagstaff, Justin Hurst, Teyran "Ty" Patterson,
 1-37 and George Harold Whatley Jr.; and

1-38 WHEREAS, Many Texans are unaware of the sacrifices made by
 1-39 game wardens; the relocation of the monument to the State Capitol,
 1-40 however, would help the public gain a greater understanding of the
 1-41 vital mission of Texas game wardens and of the extraordinary
 1-42 commitment they make to upholding the laws of our state and
 1-43 protecting its natural resources; now, therefore, be it

1-44 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
 1-45 hereby authorize the State Preservation Board, subject to state law
 1-46 and rules of the board, to approve the relocation of the Texas Game
 1-47 Warden Memorial to the State Capitol Complex, at a site outside of
 1-48 the historic Capitol grounds; and, be it further

1-49 RESOLVED, That the board consider a site south of the Sam
 1-50 Houston Building for the location of the memorial; and, be it
 1-51 further

1-52 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
 1-53 official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the
 1-54 State Preservation Board and to the chair and president of the Texas
 1-55 Game Warden Association.

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