

1-1 By: Flores S.C.R. No. 2
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 18, 2018; March 18, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Water & Rural Affairs;
 1-4 April 16, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 16, 2019,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.C.R. No. 2 By: Creighton

1-17 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-18 WHEREAS, For more than 120 years, the enforcement officers of
 1-19 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and its predecessors have
 1-20 patrolled the rivers, lakes, and coast of the Lone Star State,
 1-21 playing a central role in safeguarding the public waters; and

1-22 WHEREAS, In 1895, the 24th Texas Legislature created the
 1-23 office of Fish and Oyster Commissioner, and in 1899, the Fish and
 1-24 Oyster Commission was given jurisdiction over all public waters,
 1-25 including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds; the agency
 1-26 underwent several name changes over the years, becoming the Game,
 1-27 Fish, and Oyster Commissioner in 1907, the Game, Fish, and Oyster
 1-28 Commission in 1929, and the Game and Fish Commission in 1951, and
 1-29 since 1963, it has been known as the Texas Parks and Wildlife
 1-30 Department; and

1-31 WHEREAS, In 1965, the professionals now known as Texas game
 1-32 wardens were tasked with promoting and enforcing water safety for
 1-33 persons and property in all recreational waters of the state; since
 1-34 1971, game wardens have been formally recognized as Texas peace
 1-35 officers, and in 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature enacted House
 1-36 Bill 966, which required all game wardens to be certified as marine
 1-37 safety enforcement officers; in 2011, during the 82nd Legislative
 1-38 Session, game wardens were designated as the primary officers
 1-39 responsible for enforcing the provisions of the state's Water
 1-40 Safety Act; and

1-41 WHEREAS, Today, game wardens patrol the public waters of
 1-42 Texas to enforce hunting and fishing regulations and to promote
 1-43 water safety; they have expanded their ranks from six officers in
 1-44 1919 to more than 500, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's
 1-45 fleet has grown to include more than 590 vessels, including two
 1-46 65-foot patrol boats in the Gulf of Mexico and 26 SAFE boats for use
 1-47 along the Gulf Coast; in 2013, Texas game wardens were accredited by
 1-48 the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators for
 1-49 their adherence to the United States Coast Guard's national
 1-50 standards for training, qualifications, and credentialing; and

1-51 WHEREAS, In addition, Texas game wardens play a crucial role
 1-52 in homeland security and emergency management, including search,
 1-53 rescue, and recovery efforts; in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
 1-54 in 2005, they were the first out-of-state peace officers to be
 1-55 deployed to New Orleans, where they were directly involved in the
 1-56 rescue of 4,940 people from houses, apartments, and hospitals, and
 1-57 during Hurricane Harvey, they rescued more than 12,000 Texans from
 1-58 the storm's floodwaters; in 2014, they took part in Operation
 1-59 Strong Safety, a homeland security initiative along the
 1-60 Texas-Mexico border; and

2-1 WHEREAS, The dedicated men and women who safeguard the public
2-2 waters of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future
2-3 generations truly deserve to be known as our "Lone Star Navy," and
2-4 these individuals indeed merit recognition for their vital
2-5 contributions; now, therefore, be it

2-6 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-7 hereby recognize the game wardens of the Texas Parks and Wildlife
2-8 Department as the "Lone Star Navy" and commend them for their
2-9 outstanding work as maritime safety enforcement officers; and, be
2-10 it further

2-11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2-12 prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as an
2-13 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and
2-14 Senate.

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