



Proclamation Texas Constables - 200th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Constables have been serving the citizens of Texas since 1823 under Stephen F. Austin's first colony. This year, 2023, will mark the 200th Anniversary of their dedicated service.

WHEREAS, Constables are among the earliest recorded peace officers in world history. The office of Constable dates as far back to the beginning of the 5th century, around 1066 and the Norman Conquest of England. William the Conqueror appointed Constables to supervise individual communities, or boroughs. Constables have served the Justice Court system since 1362.

WHEREAS, A Constable's duties varied in different circumstances and times. They were often similar as those of the Sheriff who supervised a shire (the equivalent of a county). Eventually, Sheriffs were given increased administrative duties, so Constables assumed the responsibility for local law enforcement. The office of Constable was transplanted in North America by the mid-seventeenth century with a continued divergence between Constable and Sheriff. The Sheriff's role became limited which somewhat reduced their duties. Consequently, the Constable and Justice of the Peace were about the only law and order most rural American settlers ever saw.

WHEREAS, In 1836, the Constitution of The Republic of Texas established Constables as the primary Law Enforcement Administrators, whose stature is still upheld under article 2.12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and they are commissioned by the Governor of Texas as Law Enforcement Agencies just as the Sheriff's Department and Texas Department of Public Safety.

WHEREAS, On March 5, 1823, John Tumlinson, the newly elected alcalde of the Colorado District in Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas, wrote to the Baron De Bastrop in San Antonio that he had "appointed but one officer who acts in the capacity of constable to summon witnesses and bring offenders to justice." That appointee, Thomas V. Alley, thus became the first Anglo law enforcement officer in the future republic and state of Texas. Other prominent colonists who served as Constable included John Austin and James Strange. Today, Texas has about 780 Constables that are elected from precincts in most counties. Their law enforcement roles vary, but in general their police powers are no different from those of other peace officers in the state. The year 2023 marks 200 years of Constable service in Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Commissioners Court of Brazos County, sincerely thanks all Texas Constables for 200 years of service and join in this special time of recognition for their dedication to the Citizens of Texas and Brazos County. In addition, several Brazos County Constables and deputies will honor this occasion by wearing special commemorative badges on their uniforms throughout the year.

Proclaimed this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Duane Peters, County Judge

Commissioner Steve Aldrich
Precinct 1

Commissioner Chuck Konderla
Precinct 2

Commissioner Nancy Berry
Precinct 3

Commissioner Wanda J. Watson
Precinct 4