

By: Leach

H.R. No. 695

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A milestone in the history of Baylor University  
2 athletics was realized on April 5, 2021, when the men's basketball  
3 team earned its first NCAA Division I national championship; and

4           WHEREAS, The title game victory closed out an unforgettable  
5 year that began with a 17-game winning streak; the Bears went on to  
6 secure their inaugural Big 12 Conference regular-season crown after  
7 posting a 13-1 league record, and the team realized another first  
8 when it entered the NCAA tournament as a No. 1 seed; and

9           WHEREAS, Playing in the tournament's South Region, Baylor  
10 notched commanding March Madness victories over Hartford,  
11 Wisconsin, and Villanova before besting Arkansas to punch its  
12 ticket to the Final Four for the first time since 1950; matching up  
13 against the University of Houston in the semifinals, the Bears  
14 showcased their precision shooting and stifling defense to prevail  
15 78-59 and secure a berth in the championship contest; and

16           WHEREAS, Taking the floor at Lucas Oil Stadium in  
17 Indianapolis for the marquee title game, Baylor faced the  
18 undefeated and top-ranked squad from Gonzaga University; the Bears  
19 were undaunted and took charge from the opening tip-off; jumping  
20 out to a 9-0 lead and a 47-37 halftime advantage, they continued to  
21 dominate down the stretch, never allowing Gonzaga to come closer  
22 than nine points; emerging victorious by the final score of 86-70,  
23 the Bears hoisted the championship trophy and closed out a  
24 storybook year with an overall record of 28 wins and only two

1 losses; and

2           WHEREAS, Baylor was led by Jared Butler, the Final Four Most  
3 Outstanding Player, who scored 22 points in the finale; notable  
4 honors were also claimed by Davion Mitchell, who was named both the  
5 Naismith and National Association of Basketball Coaches Defensive  
6 Player of the Year; the Bears also received valuable contributions  
7 throughout the season from the other members of the roster: Flo  
8 Thamba, L. J. Cryer, Jordan Turner, Adam Flagler, Mark Vital,  
9 Jackson Moffatt, Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua, Matthew Mayer, MaCio  
10 Teague, Zach Loveday, Mark Paterson, and Dain Dainja; these  
11 determined athletes were ably guided by head coach Scott Drew, who  
12 won the Associated Press and Big 12 Coach of the Year awards and is  
13 the youngest active coach in college basketball to win a national  
14 championship; vital support was also provided by associate head  
15 coach Jerome Tang, assistant coaches Alvin Brooks III and John  
16 Jakus, and the other members of the Baylor staff; and

17           WHEREAS, Playing with exemplary skill, determination, and  
18 teamwork, the Baylor Bears realized their season-long goal of  
19 becoming national champions, and their achievement will forever be  
20 a proud memory for the university's loyal fans throughout Texas and  
21 beyond; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby congratulate the Baylor University men's  
24 basketball team on winning the 2021 NCAA Division I national  
25 championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff  
26 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

27           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 695

1 prepared for the Bears as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
2 House of Representatives.