

By: Howard

H.R. No. 445

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Clifford Lincoln Gustafson, who achieved iconic  
2 stature as head coach of The University of Texas baseball team,  
3 passed away on January 2, 2023, at the age of 91; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Elmer and Wendla Gustafson, Cliff  
5 Gustafson was born in the small community of Cadillac, near Kenedy,  
6 on February 12, 1931, and he grew up with three siblings, Marvin,  
7 Ella Mae, and Clarice; he played baseball at San Antonio Harlandale  
8 High School and at UT, helping lead the Longhorns to the 1952  
9 Southwest Conference championship and a berth in the NCAA College  
10 World Series; after completing his undergraduate studies at UT, he  
11 earned a master's degree in education from Our Lady of the Lake  
12 University; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Gustafson competed professionally in the  
14 Dodgers organization before taking the helm of the South San  
15 Antonio High School baseball program; during his tenure as head  
16 coach, he guided the Bobcats to 12 district titles and a record  
17 seven 3A state championships, and his final team in 1967 notched a  
18 perfect record; he met his future wife, Janie Davenport, while  
19 coaching at South San, and they shared 53 happy years of marriage  
20 until her passing in 2012; the couple raised three children, Jill,  
21 Deron, and Jann; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1967, Mr. Gustafson moved up to the collegiate  
23 ranks when he was hired as head coach of the UT baseball team; his  
24 unique style of coaching became known as "Gusball," and over the  
25 course of his 29-year career on the 40 Acres, his teams made 17

1 appearances in the College World Series and won two national  
2 championships; moreover, the Longhorns collected 22 SWC crowns  
3 under his tutelage, and he racked up a total of 1,466 victories  
4 against only 377 losses; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gustafson was twice selected as National Coach  
6 of the Year, and his accolades also include induction into the Texas  
7 Athletics Hall of Honor at UT as well as the College Baseball,  
8 Southwest Conference, Omaha College Baseball, and Texas High School  
9 Baseball Coaches Association Halls of Fame; and

10 WHEREAS, In his later years, Mr. Gustafson married a second  
11 time, to the former Ann Robinette; he relished the time he spent in  
12 the company of his loved ones, and he had the pleasure of seeing his  
13 family grow to include six grandchildren and five  
14 great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, Renowned for his determined leadership and his  
16 commitment to the student-athletes he mentored, Cliff Gustafson  
17 left an indelible mark on the UT baseball program, and his myriad  
18 achievements will long endure; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Clifford Lincoln  
21 Gustafson and extend deepest sympathy to his relatives and friends;  
22 and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Coach  
26 Gustafson.