

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Gregg Popovich retired as head coach of the
2 San Antonio Spurs on May 2, 2025, drawing to a close a legendary
3 career that transformed the sport of basketball; and

4 WHEREAS, The architect of a Spurs dynasty that brought five
5 NBA titles to the Alamo City, Coach Popovich is stepping down to
6 serve as the team's president of basketball operations; he ends his
7 hall of fame career as the all-time winningest coach in league
8 history with 1,422 victories; over the course of 29 seasons, he
9 collected three Coach of the Year awards and guided the team to six
10 NBA Finals and 22 consecutive playoff appearances; and

11 WHEREAS, Born in East Chicago, Indiana, Gregg Popovich
12 lettered in three sports at Merrillville High School and played
13 basketball at the U.S. Air Force Academy; he went on to serve five
14 years of active military duty, and during that time, he traveled
15 through Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union as a member of the Armed
16 Forces basketball team; he began his coaching career in 1973 as head
17 coach of the USAFA Prep School, and he later became an assistant on
18 the USAFA college team and head coach of the Pomona and Pitzer
19 Colleges combined men's basketball team; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1986, Coach Popovich became a volunteer assistant
21 at the University of Kansas under head coach Larry Brown; when
22 Mr. Brown took charge of the Spurs two years later, Mr. Popovich
23 arrived in San Antonio for his first NBA coaching job; he
24 subsequently served as an assistant with the Golden State Warriors

1 but returned to San Antonio in 1994 to become general manager and
2 vice president of basketball operations; early in the 1996-1997
3 season, with the Spurs struggling, he was named head coach,
4 beginning his legendary tenure at the helm of the team; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Popovich proved himself a master of matching
6 San Antonio's playing style to the talents of his athletes, and the
7 defense-first, early championship teams led by the "Twin Towers" of
8 Tim Duncan and David Robinson gave way to the so-called "Beautiful
9 Game" Spurs of the mid-2010s that carved through the league with an
10 unselfish brand of basketball; in total, the Popovich-era Spurs
11 were crowned NBA champions in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2014; the
12 franchise's accomplishments were unprecedented for a small-market
13 team, and the Spurs became the gold standard in professional sports
14 for their revered culture; beyond the titles, Coach Popovich helped
15 pioneer such innovations as providing players with rest periods to
16 prolong their careers and scouting international basketball
17 talent; in addition, he has mentored a long list of coaches and
18 front-office personnel who have found notable success in the sport;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Early on, Coach Popovich was known for his gruffness
21 and no-nonsense approach, but as the years passed, he gained the
22 reputation as a players' coach who led with a wry sense of humor and
23 brutal honesty; he valued building deep connections with players
24 and staff, and the Spurs' team dinners, preferably with six people
25 to a table and plenty of wine, became the stuff of legend; his
26 effective leadership was also demonstrated on the Olympic stage in
27 2021, when he guided Team USA to the gold medal at the Summer Games

1 in Tokyo; and

2 WHEREAS, "Coach Pop" has become a fixture in the San Antonio
3 community who is beloved not only for his coaching expertise but for
4 his civic engagement; he has spoken about race and politics with a
5 candidness rarely found in sports, and he has been actively
6 involved with organizations such as Roy Maas Youth Alternatives,
7 the Boys and Girls Club, and the Miracle League of San Antonio;
8 moreover, the Spurs Youth Basketball League, a program he helped
9 create in 1991, was honored with a Daily Point of Light Award by
10 President George H. W. Bush; and

11 WHEREAS, One of the most successful basketball coaches in the
12 history of the game, Gregg Popovich has distinguished himself
13 through his unparalleled leadership and deep commitment to his
14 community and country, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his
15 extraordinary achievements as he concludes his coaching career;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Gregg Popovich on his retirement as
19 head coach of the San Antonio Spurs and extend to him sincere best
20 wishes for the future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Coach Pop as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.

Martinez Fischer
Lujan
Lopez of Bexar
Cortez
Garcia of Bexar

Gervin-Hawkins
Bernal
Campos
Dorazio
LaHood

H.R. No. 1130

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1130 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House