

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1130

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.