

By: Van Arsdale

H.R. No. 691

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas men's basketball team joined
2 the ranks of the nation's elite by claiming a berth in the 2003 NCAA
3 Division I Final Four; and

4 WHEREAS, Having advanced to the "Sweet 16" in the 2002 NCAA
5 Tournament, the Longhorns focused their efforts throughout the
6 current season on returning to the tournament to better last year's
7 showing; after facing a brutal regular season schedule laced with
8 formidable Big 12 rivals and other top opponents, Texas emerged as
9 the No. 1 seed in the South Region when the NCAA Tournament brackets
10 were announced; and

11 WHEREAS, The Longhorns proved themselves worthy of their top
12 seed by being the only top-seeded team to advance to the Final Four;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The players in orange and white exhibited their
15 trademark mental toughness and determination by earning the
16 school's first Final Four appearance since 1947; and

17 WHEREAS, Paced by their superb floor general, T. J. Ford, who
18 was recently named 2003 Naismith College Basketball Male Player of
19 the Year, teammates James Thomas, Brandon Mouton, Kenton Paulino,
20 Sydmill Harris, Deginald Erskin, Jason Klotz, Brad Buckman, Terrell
21 Ross, Royal Ivey, Drew Gressett, Brian Boddicker, Chris Wright, and
22 Chris Ogden are united with him in their desire to make The
23 University of Texas men's basketball program one of the finest in
24 the country; and

1 WHEREAS, Head coach Rick Barnes, who has guided his Texas
2 team to the NCAA Tournament each of his five years at the Forty
3 Acres, is the architect of the Longhorns' championship dream; he
4 has instilled in his young charges an outstanding work ethic and
5 indomitable spirit that are a reflection of his own personality,
6 and he has been ably supported in his efforts by assistant coaches
7 Frank Haith, Russell Springmann, and Rodney Terry; and

8 WHEREAS, These remarkable student-athletes, with their
9 coaches and staff, have brought men's basketball at The University
10 of Texas to a level of prominence not seen in decades, and their
11 efforts are a source of tremendous pride to Longhorn fans
12 everywhere; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate the members of The University of
15 Texas men's basketball team on earning a berth in the 2003 NCAA
16 Division I Men's Basketball Championship Final Four and extend to
17 them sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the team members and coaching staff as an expression of
20 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.