

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 706

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 1966, Texas Western College, now The University
2 of Texas at El Paso, faced the highly rated University of Kentucky
3 men's basketball team in the NCAA national championship game; and

4 WHEREAS, The upstart Miners made hardwood history that year
5 by defeating Adolph Rupp's Wildcats 72-65, and in addition to the
6 game's significance in the sporting realm, it also had a deep and
7 lasting social impact; and

8 WHEREAS, Texas Western coach Don Haskins, who was inducted
9 into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997, started five African
10 American players on his team, while Kentucky's entire roster was
11 white; the Miners' victory was a source of pride to all Texas sports
12 fans and helped to create a broader avenue of acceptance for the
13 African American athletes that followed; and

14 WHEREAS, The 37th anniversary of this landmark event provides
15 an ideal opportunity to honor the exceptional achievements of these
16 remarkable student-athletes and coaches, which culminated in the
17 Lone Star State's first Division I national championship in men's
18 basketball; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize April 8, 2003, as The University of
21 Texas at El Paso 1966 NCAA Basketball Champions Day.