

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 930

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 No. 1 ranked University of Kentucky
3 men's basketball team in the National Collegiate Athletic
4 Association (NCAA) national championship game; and

5 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso Miners made NCAA
6 history as the first college team to start an all African American
7 lineup, starting five in the national championship game against the
8 University of Kentucky Wildcats; and

9 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso, which was
10 overlooked in preseason ratings, became the collegiate basketball
11 champion for the first time by defeating longtime powerhouse
12 Kentucky; and

13 WHEREAS, The Texas Western players' rebounding strength and
14 fine shooting kept them ahead from after 9 minutes, 40 seconds, of
15 the first half until the end of the game, when the Miners defeated
16 the Wildcats 72-65; and

17 WHEREAS, This win made Coach Don Haskins, a.k.a. "The Bear,"
18 a coaching legend and changed the face of college basketball
19 forever, ultimately leading to his induction into the Basketball
20 Hall of Fame in 1997; and

21 WHEREAS, To this day, The University of Texas at El Paso
22 remains the only school in the Lone Star State to win a Division I
23 national championship in men's basketball; and

24 WHEREAS, The 37th anniversary of this landmark event provides

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1 an ideal opportunity to honor the exceptional achievements of these
2 remarkable student-athletes and their coach; now, therefore, be it
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize April 28, 2003, as The University of
5 Texas at El Paso 1966 NCAA Basketball Champions Day.