

By: Noriega

H.C.R. No. 211

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Art Briles, head football coach of the University of  
2 Houston, has earned the respect and gratitude of the team's fans by  
3 restoring the Cougars to gridiron glory; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2006, his fourth year at the helm, Coach Briles  
5 led the Cougars to their first Conference USA championship since  
6 1999 and took the team to its third bowl appearance in the past four  
7 seasons; and

8           WHEREAS, Coach Briles began his successful football career as  
9 a player at Rule High School, where he was an all-state quarterback  
10 on the team coached by his father, Dennis; he went on to attend the  
11 University of Houston from 1974 to 1977, playing wide receiver on  
12 the squad that captured the Southwest Conference championship and  
13 emerged victorious in the Cotton Bowl; and

14           WHEREAS, After transferring to Texas Tech University, he  
15 obtained his bachelor's degree, and he later earned a master's  
16 degree in education at Abilene Christian University; and

17           WHEREAS, His coaching career began at Sundown High School,  
18 where he was an assistant coach for a year, and continued at  
19 Sweetwater High School, where he served as an assistant coach for  
20 four years; after two years as head coach and athletic director at  
21 Hamlin High School and two years in the same capacity at Georgetown  
22 High School, he began his tenure as head coach and athletic director  
23 at Stephenville High School; and

24           WHEREAS, During his 12 years as the head coach at

1 Stephenville, he led the Yellow Jackets to four state  
2 championships, including back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999;  
3 during a six-year stretch, his teams posted a sensational record of  
4 90-2-1, and the 1998 squad set a then national record for total  
5 offense; and

6 WHEREAS, Coach Briles, who has spent his entire coaching  
7 career in Texas, served as running backs coach at Texas Tech  
8 University for three years before taking the head coaching position  
9 at the University of Houston in 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, In his first season as a collegiate head coach, this  
11 talented leader began the process of restoring the University of  
12 Houston's once dominant football program to national prominence,  
13 leading the Cougars to a 7-6 record and an appearance in the  
14 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl; and

15 WHEREAS, The 2006 season saw the Cougars earn a berth in the  
16 Liberty Bowl after posting a 10-3 regular season record and winning  
17 the Conference USA championship; for his efforts, Coach Briles was  
18 honored as the conference's 2006 Coach of the Year, a fitting  
19 tribute for this successful leader; and

20 WHEREAS, Art Briles has reestablished the University of  
21 Houston's football team as a perennial contender for postseason  
22 honors, and he is indeed worthy of special recognition for his  
23 outstanding efforts as the head coach of the Cougars; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
26 hereby honor Art Briles for his contributions to the success of the  
27 University of Houston football team and extend best wishes for

1 continued success to Coach Briles and his players and staff; and, be  
2 it further

3       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for Coach Briles, University of Houston director of  
5 athletics Dave Maggard, and university president Jay Gogue as an  
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and  
7 Senate.