

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 1518

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Baylor University men's basketball team brought  
2 further acclaim to the university and to the State of Texas with its  
3 inspired play during the 2009 postseason, making a dramatic run  
4 through the National Invitational Tournament to play for the title;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, To set the stage for its NIT success, the Bears  
7 performed exceptionally well in the Big 12 championship tournament  
8 in Oklahoma City in mid-March; they reeled off three successive  
9 wins, including a 71-64 upset of Kansas, the conference's  
10 top-seeded team, to earn a spot in the title game; there, they fell  
11 to Missouri to finish as the Big 12 runner-up; and

12           WHEREAS, Granted a spot in the National Invitational  
13 Tournament for the first time since 2001, Baylor resumed its clutch  
14 play, topping Georgetown, Virginia Tech, Auburn, and San Diego  
15 State; on April 2, Baylor made its first NIT finals appearance in  
16 school history, and though the team lost a hard-fought title game to  
17 Penn State, its overall performance in the tournament demonstrated  
18 that Baylor could hold its own against tough competitors from  
19 throughout the nation; and

20           WHEREAS, Indispensable to the Baylor attack were its skilled  
21 senior players--Curtis Jerrells, Henry Dugat, Delbert Simpson,  
22 Mamadou Diene, and Kevin Rogers--who have helped bring about a  
23 resurgence in the basketball program, winning 64 games during their  
24 years at the university; in addition, the Bears received

1 outstanding contributions from the other members of the roster:  
2 Kendall Wright, Duran Diaz, Fred Ellis, Quincy Acy, LaceDarius  
3 Dunn, Anthony Jones, Tweety Carter, Josh Lomers, and Ekpe Udoh; and

4 WHEREAS, These talented athletes were guided by head coach  
5 Scott Drew and assistant coaches Matthew Driscoll, Mark Morefield,  
6 and Jerome Tang; additional support was provided by director of  
7 basketball operations Stephen Brough, coordinator of basketball  
8 operations Paul Mills, and director of player development Dwon  
9 Clifton; and

10 WHEREAS, With its thrilling postseason victories, the Baylor  
11 basketball squad was a source of great excitement and pride for its  
12 loyal fans, and its triumphs will serve to inspire future Bears  
13 teams in seasons to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
15 Legislature hereby congratulate the Baylor University men's  
16 basketball team on its memorable 2008-2009 season and extend best  
17 wishes to the players, coaches, and staff for continued success;  
18 and, be it further

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