

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 166

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Tony Harper, the head basketball coach of Montwood
2 High School in El Paso, achieved a notable milestone when he
3 recorded his 900th career victory on January 11, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Matching up against local rival Eastwood High
5 School, the Rams employed their usual hard-nosed defense to achieve
6 a 38-28 triumph, enabling their coach to join an exclusive club of
7 Texans who have notched 900 wins; and

8 WHEREAS, Tony Harper was born and raised in El Paso and
9 graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso, where he played
10 for legendary coach Don Haskins; he began his career as the junior
11 varsity coach at the city's Burges High School and soon took charge
12 of its varsity squad; he then served as head coach at El Paso High
13 School for five years before moving to Montwood when the school
14 first opened in 1990; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of more than two decades, his
16 Montwood teams have averaged 22 wins a season and rarely missed the
17 playoffs; among active coaches, his victory total ranks first in
18 the state and fourth in the nation, and only six other people in the
19 history of Texas high school basketball have compiled more wins;
20 for his exceptional work, he has received prestigious State Coach
21 of the Year awards from the University Interscholastic League and
22 the National Federation of State High School Associations; and

23 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Coach Harper enjoys the
24 support of his wife of 43 years, Andree; Mrs. Harper has videotaped

1 nearly every game her spouse has coached; in typical fashion, she
2 was on hand to record the momentous 900th win and offer a
3 well-deserved hug of congratulations at the final buzzer; and

4 WHEREAS, Renowned for his emphasis on defense, Coach Harper
5 also stresses conditioning and requires hard work and outstanding
6 commitment from his charges; his disciplined approach to the game
7 has positively shaped the lives of hundreds of young athletes, and
8 many of his former players have gone on to thrive in coaching and in
9 a variety of other professional pursuits; and

10 WHEREAS, Winning 900 games is a rare feat and one that
11 reflects great skill and dedication, and Tony Harper is truly
12 deserving of special recognition for this remarkable
13 accomplishment; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Montwood High School basketball
16 coach Tony Harper on attaining his 900th career victory and extend
17 to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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