

By: Otto

H.R. No. 583

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Willie Fritz, the head football coach at Sam Houston
2 State University, has been chosen as the Liberty Mutual NCAA
3 Division I Football Championship Subdivision Coach of the Year for
4 2012, and this notable accolade follows a successful season in
5 which he led his team to its second consecutive Southland
6 Conference championship; and

7 WHEREAS, Sponsored by Liberty Mutual Insurance in
8 partnership with the National Football Foundation and the College
9 Football Hall of Fame, the Coach of the Year accolade honors
10 sportsmanship, integrity, responsibility, and excellence both on
11 and off the field; the award provides Coach Fritz with \$20,000 to
12 donate to the SHSU Alumni Association and \$50,000 to donate to
13 charity, and the coach has selected the Lone Survivor Foundation
14 and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the recipients of the
15 funds; and

16 WHEREAS, Since taking the helm at SHSU in 2010, Willie Fritz
17 has established himself as one of the top coaches in the NCAA
18 Football Championship Subdivision; in both 2011 and 2012, the
19 Bearkats won the Southland Conference title and competed in the
20 national championship game; moreover, many SHSU players have
21 achieved All-Conference and All-American honors under the
22 direction of Coach Fritz, and team members have been finalists for
23 the Walter Payton and Buck Buchanan Awards; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Fritz also places a strong emphasis on

1 academics, which has resulted in numerous Bearkats earning a place
2 on academic honor rolls; in addition, the coach, his staff, and
3 members of the squad play a positive role in the local community by
4 participating in food drives, by raising funds for the Ronald
5 McDonald House and wounded veterans, and by helping schoolchildren
6 develop their reading skills; and

7 WHEREAS, The expertise and commitment demonstrated by Coach
8 Fritz are further reflected in the numerous other awards he has
9 received; the American Football Coaches Association has twice
10 selected him as Regional Coach of the Year, and in 2011 he was voted
11 the association's National Coach of the Year and the Southland
12 Conference Coach of the Year; and

13 WHEREAS, Before beginning his tenure at SHSU, Coach Fritz
14 spent 13 years leading the football program at the University of
15 Central Missouri, where he became the school's winningest coach;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, With his latest accomplishments, Willie Fritz has
18 advanced the outstanding reputation of Bearkat athletics, and his
19 work is greatly appreciated by the university's supporters and by
20 sports fans from throughout the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby congratulate Willie Fritz on being named the
24 Liberty Mutual NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision
25 Coach of the Year for 2012 and commend him for guiding the Sam
26 Houston State University football team to its second consecutive
27 Southland Conference championship; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Coach Fritz as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.