

By: Larson

H.R. No. 983

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Larry Coker of The University of Texas at San
2 Antonio has built an exceptional record of success as a college
3 football coach, and his leadership has been instrumental in the
4 early achievements of the Roadrunner football program; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Okemah, Oklahoma, Coach Coker played
6 football as a defensive back at Northeastern State University; he
7 graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in history and went on to
8 earn a master's degree in guidance counseling and physical
9 education from the same institution; and

10 WHEREAS, After beginning his career as a head coach at the
11 high school level in his home state, Coach Coker entered the
12 collegiate ranks in 1979 as an assistant at the University of Tulsa;
13 he then worked as an assistant coach at Oklahoma State, Oklahoma,
14 and Ohio State before joining the University of Miami in 1995 as
15 offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, and in 2001 he was
16 promoted to head coach of the Hurricanes; and

17 WHEREAS, He was just the second coach in National Collegiate
18 Athletic Association history to win a national championship in his
19 debut season, and he racked up a total of 24 consecutive victories
20 before suffering a loss; posting an outstanding 60-15 record in his
21 six seasons at the helm, he led Miami to three Big East Conference
22 titles and appearances in three Bowl Championship Series games, and
23 he was twice honored as National Coach of the Year; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Coker spent two years as a college football

1 analyst for ESPN before being hired by UTSA in 2009 to build the
2 school's new football program from scratch; beginning play in 2011,
3 the team enjoyed unprecedented fan support from the outset, and the
4 Roadrunners established NCAA records for inaugural game attendance
5 and average home attendance by a startup program; the 2012 season
6 saw many highlights for UTSA, as Coach Coker guided the team to
7 their first victories in the Western Athletic Conference and in the
8 Football Bowl Subdivision; finishing with an 8-4 record, the squad
9 is well prepared to begin its initial season in Conference USA in
10 2013; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his knowledge, skill, and commitment to
12 excellence, Larry Coker has established the UTSA program as a
13 rising force in college football, and his teams are sure to be a
14 source of excitement for Roadrunner fans in the years to come; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Larry Coker on his noteworthy coaching
18 career and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success;
19 and, be it further

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