

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1070

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a Lone Star legend drew to a close with
2 the passing of former University of Texas football coach Darrell K
3 Royal on November 7, 2012, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, A phenomenal leader who never had a losing season
5 during more than 20 years in college football, Coach Royal became a
6 beloved figure to generations of UT fans, not only for his superb
7 gridiron accomplishments but also for his work in behalf of the
8 university and the wider community; and

9 WHEREAS, Born in Hollis, Oklahoma, Darrell Royal excelled at
10 football, baseball, and basketball during his youth and received
11 scholarship offers in all three sports; after serving in the Army
12 Air Corps during World War II, he enrolled at the University of
13 Oklahoma, where he earned All-American honors as a quarterback and
14 punter and established school records for longest punt return and
15 for career interceptions that have yet to be broken; and

16 WHEREAS, His rise through the coaching ranks in the early
17 1950s was meteoric; he held seven jobs in seven years, four of which
18 were head coaching assignments--El Reno High School, the Edmonton
19 Eskimos of the Canadian Football League, Mississippi State
20 University, and the University of Washington--before being hired by
21 UT in December 1956; he inherited a Longhorns team that had posted a
22 dismal 1-9 record the previous season, but he managed to
23 immediately turn the program around, guiding his players to a berth
24 in the Sugar Bowl during his debut year; and

1 WHEREAS, So began two unforgettable decades during which the
2 Longhorns became a national powerhouse; under the direction of
3 Coach Royal, Texas won 3 national championships, claimed 11
4 Southwest Conference titles, and made 16 bowl appearances, 10 of
5 which were victories in the Cotton Bowl; he also fostered
6 excellence off the field by becoming the first college coach to hire
7 a full-time academic counselor to assist players, and he personally
8 awarded special "T" rings to those who graduated; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Royal was renowned for developing innovative
10 approaches to the game, such as the famous "wishbone" formation
11 that helped the team to rack up 30 straight victories after being
12 introduced in 1968; his homespun wit was just as sharp as his
13 strategy, and many of his humorous observations have become
14 oft-repeated sayings among football enthusiasts; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his work overseeing the football
16 team, Coach Royal served as the university's athletics director
17 from 1962 to 1979 and was later appointed as a special assistant to
18 the president on athletic matters; in recognition of his
19 contributions, the UT football stadium was renamed in 1996 as the
20 Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, and in 2006 he became just
21 the fifth person to earn the Distinguished Service Award from the
22 Texas Exes; and

23 WHEREAS, Numerous other accolades were bestowed on this
24 highly respected coach as well; he won two Coach of the Year awards
25 from the American Football Coaches Association and three from the
26 Football Writers Association of America; he was inducted into the
27 National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame, the

1 Texas and Oklahoma Sports Halls of Fame, the Longhorn Hall of Honor,
2 and the Cotton Bowl Classic Hall of Fame; in 1996 he received the
3 coveted Horatio Alger Award, in 2000 he became the inaugural
4 recipient of the Paul "Bear" Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award, and
5 in 2010 he received the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award for "the
6 individual . . . whose services have been outstanding in the
7 advancement of the best interests of football"; and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Royal's dedication to helping others was
9 reflected in his sponsorship of a charity golf tournament in
10 conjunction with Willie Nelson and Ben Crenshaw that raised several
11 million dollars to benefit youth in East Austin; moreover, he and
12 his wife, Edith, established the Darrell K Royal Fund for
13 Alzheimer's Research to expand study and treatment of the disease;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The most successful football coach in the history of
16 The University of Texas at Austin and one of the greatest of his
17 era, Darrell Royal played a major role in furthering the tradition
18 of excellence that defines Longhorn athletics, and his legacy will
19 be celebrated by the UT faithful for as long as the sport of
20 football is played on the 40 Acres; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Coach Darrell K
23 Royal and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
24 his wife of 68 years, Edith Royal; to his son, Sammy Royal, and his
25 wife, April; to his son-in-law, Chic Kazen; to his grandsons,
26 Christian Kazen, David Kazen, and Sammy Royal; to his
27 granddaughter, Elena Trombetta; to his great-granddaughters,

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1 Isabella and Alexandra Kazen; and to his other relatives and many
2 friends; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Darrell
6 Royal.