

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 1877

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former University of Houston basketball coach Guy V.
2 Lewis is receiving the ultimate accolade from his peers with his
3 enshrinement in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a
4 member of the Class of 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, A native Texan who was born in Arp, Guy Lewis began
6 his involvement with University of Houston basketball as a player,
7 serving as a team captain and helping the Cougars win two Lone Star
8 Conference championships before graduating in 1947; he returned to
9 his alma mater in 1953 as an assistant coach and moved up to the head
10 coaching position three years later; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the course of the next three decades, Coach
12 Lewis led his Cougar teams to 592 victories, 5 NCAA Final Four
13 appearances, and 14 NCAA tournament berths, and his squads also
14 tallied 2 regular season championships and 4 tournament titles
15 against their Southwest Conference foes; moreover, this brilliant
16 coach became a well-known basketball personality, famous for the
17 trademark red polka-dot towel that he clutched during games; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Lewis pushed collegiate basketball into the
19 national spotlight when he suggested that the Cougars' 1968 game
20 against hoops powerhouse UCLA and its star, Lew Alcindor, be played
21 at the Astrodome; UH prevailed 71-69 in what was billed as the Game
22 of the Century, and the contest drew what was, at that time, the
23 largest number of ticket buyers and the biggest television audience
24 to ever witness a basketball game; and

1 WHEREAS, Possessing an exceptional ability to recognize and
2 recruit basketball talent, he coached 15 players who went on to
3 become All-Americans, including such greats as Elvin Hayes, Hakeem
4 Olajuwon, and Clyde Drexler, and 29 of his Cougar athletes were
5 selected in the NBA draft; demonstrating admirable leadership as
6 well, he played an important role in the early integration of
7 college basketball by granting scholarships to Mr. Hayes, Don
8 Chaney, and other African American players; and

9 WHEREAS, The "Phi Slama Jama" teams of the early 1980s were a
10 highlight of Coach Lewis's career; capitalizing on his players'
11 superb athleticism, he orchestrated a freewheeling offense that
12 exhilarated fans and often culminated in rim-rattling dunks; the
13 team played in two NCAA championship games during its run of three
14 consecutive Final Four appearances, and its lineup included not
15 only Mr. Olajuwon and Mr. Drexler but also Michael Young, Larry
16 Micheaux, Rob Williams, Reid Gettys, Ricky Winslow, Greg Anderson,
17 Alvin Franklin, and Benny Anders; and

18 WHEREAS, Widely respected for his accomplishments, Coach
19 Lewis garnered national Coach of the Year honors in 1968 and 1983
20 and received the inaugural Don Haskins Texas Lifetime Achievement
21 Award from the Houston Athletic Committee; in addition, UH has
22 recognized his importance to the university by inducting him into
23 its Hall of Honor and naming the Hofheinz Pavilion basketball floor
24 Guy V. Lewis Court; and

25 WHEREAS, A coach of rare ability, Guy Lewis guided his teams
26 to notable success on the court and contributed to several
27 important advancements in college athletics, and he is indeed

1 deserving of a place alongside the legendary figures who have left
2 an indelible imprint on the game of basketball; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby congratulate Guy V. Lewis on his enshrinement in
6 the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and extend to him
7 sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Coach Lewis as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.