

By: Simpson

H.R. No. 194

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In an inspiring display of solidarity with a fallen
2 teammate, the Gilmer High School football team capped an undefeated
3 season by winning the University Interscholastic League 4A Division
4 2 state title at AT&T Stadium in Arlington on December 19, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, The Gilmer players began the year with heavy hearts,
6 as they coped with the tragic death of junior wide receiver Desmond
7 Pollard in March 2014; dedicating the season to their friend and
8 teammate, the Buckeyes dominated their regular season opponents to
9 capture the District 5-4A crown and secure a spot in the UIL state
10 playoffs; and

11 WHEREAS, An unstoppable juggernaut on offense, Gilmer
12 averaged more than 60 points a game in its first five postseason
13 contests; in the championship final, the Buckeyes fell behind early
14 in the game and trailed the squad from West Orange-Stark High School
15 25-7 at halftime; refusing to give up on its championship dream, the
16 team responded with 28 unanswered points in the second half; wide
17 receiver Blake Lynch led the way with two fourth-quarter touchdown
18 runs to clinch a 35-25 victory and the third state championship in
19 school history; for his efforts, Mr. Lynch was named the game's
20 Offensive Most Valuable Player, and teammate Demarco Boyd earned
21 Defensive MVP honors; and

22 WHEREAS, In their march to the state title, the Buckeyes
23 received valuable contributions from each member of the roster;
24 these determined athletes were guided by head coach Jeff Traylor

1 and his staff, whose expertise and leadership were essential to the
2 players' exceptional performances all year long; and

3 WHEREAS, The members of the Gilmer High School football team
4 demonstrated admirable skill and dedication in winning the state
5 crown while paying tribute to one of their own, and they will
6 forever treasure the memory of their outstanding accomplishments;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate the Gilmer High School football
10 team on winning the 2014 UIL 4A Division 2 state championship and
11 extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best
12 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas
15 House of Representatives.