

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Andrew Lee Higgins, a longtime coach and teacher in
2 the Houston Independent School District, passed away on November 2,
3 2014, at the age of 68, leaving his loved ones to treasure a life
4 that was rich in meaningful accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins was born to Columbus and Cleopatra
6 Higgins on May 28, 1946, in Brazoria; the 10th of 13 children, he
7 grew up in a small farming community known as Higgins Settlement,
8 near Sweeny, Texas; Mr. Higgins was an accomplished athlete at
9 George Washington Carver High School, where he earned All-State
10 honors as a member of the school's football team; after finishing
11 high school, he continued to play football at Wharton Junior
12 College and then at Texas Southern University; he earned a
13 bachelor's degree in physical education at TSU and later returned
14 to the university to complete a master's degree in the same field;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, While in college, Andrew Higgins met the love of his
17 life, Verlinda Joyce Gabriel, and they exchanged the vows of
18 matrimony on December 4, 1971, after a whirlwind romance; the
19 couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned nearly 43 years,
20 and they became the proud parents of four children, Andrea, Andrew,
21 Ashley, and Angela; Mr. Higgins also experienced the joy of
22 welcoming six grandchildren into his cherished family; and

23 WHEREAS, Andrew Higgins taught and coached at Northwood
24 Middle School in the North Forest Independent School District

1 before joining the Houston ISD; he went on to coach baseball and
2 football at Westbury, Sterling, and Worthing High Schools and to
3 lead several of his teams to district championships; dedicated to
4 his students, he continued to work even after receiving a leukemia
5 diagnosis in 2004, though health concerns ultimately caused him to
6 retire after a sterling 37-year career; and

7 WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman was active in a number of
8 worthwhile organizations and causes in the Bayou City; he
9 volunteered his time as a precinct chair and precinct judge for
10 Precinct 140 and served as a delegate to state and national
11 Democratic conventions; moreover, he was a valued congregant of
12 Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, which he joined in 1966, and he
13 served as a member of the church's Courtesy Corps and as a
14 scoutmaster for its Boy Scout troop; he was also a member of the
15 Texas Coaches Association, Riverside Terrace Civic Club, and Phi
16 Beta Sigma Fraternity; and

17 WHEREAS, Andrew Higgins lived a full and generous life
18 centered on his family, his students, and his community, and he will
19 long be remembered with deep affection by all those who were
20 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Andrew Lee Higgins
23 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
24 wife, Verlinda Higgins; to his children, Andrea Simon and her
25 husband, Ramon, Andrew Higgins and his wife, Wendy, Ashley Higgins,
26 and Angela Redding and her husband, Nathan; to his grandchildren,
27 Symone, Sydney, and Ryan Simon, Brisa and Sofia Higgins, and James

1 Redding; to his sibilings, Stratton Higgins and his wife, Thelma,
2 Carrie Sneed, Jerry Higgins Sr. and his wife, Jean, Travis Higgins
3 and his wife, Erma, Polly Cooper and her husband, Ernest, Geneva
4 Shannon, Priscilla Wilkins, Lannis Higgins, and Lola Newman and her
5 husband, Calvin; to his mother-in-law, Dicy Bolivar; and to his
6 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Andrew Lee
10 Higgins.

Miles

Straus	Guerra	Otto
Allen	Guillen	Paddie
Alonzo	Gutierrez	Parker
Alvarado	Harless	Paul
Anchia	Hernandez	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Herrero	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Howard	Phillips
Ashby	Huberty	Pickett
Aycock	Hughes	Price
Bell	Hunter	Raney
Blanco	Isaac	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Riddle
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rinaldi
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burns	Keough	Rodriguez of Travis
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Romero, Jr.
Button	King of Parker	Rose
Canales	King of Taylor	Sanford
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Clardy	Klick	Schofield
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Dale	Laubenberg	Smith
Darby	Leach	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Springer
Deshotel	Lucio III	Stephenson
Dukes	Márquez	Stickland
Dutton	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Elkins	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Faircloth	McClendon	Tinderholt
Fallon	Menéndez	Turner of Collin
Farias	Metcalf	Turner of Harris
Farney	Meyer	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	VanDeaver
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villalba
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White of Bell
Galindo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Geren	Murphy	Workman
Giddings	Murr	Wray
Goldman	Naishtat	Wu
Gonzales	Nevárez	Zedler
González	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 391

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 391 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 11, 2015.

Chief Clerk of the House