

By: Miles

H.R. No. 391

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; Mr. Higgins was an accomplished athlete at George  
9 Washington Carver High School, where he earned All-State honors as  
10 a member of the school's football team; after finishing high  
11 school, he continued to play football at Wharton Junior College and  
12 then at Texas Southern University; he earned a bachelor's degree in  
13 physical education at TSU and later returned to the university to  
14 complete a master's degree in the same field; and

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

22           WHEREAS, Andrew Higgins taught and coached at Northwood  
23 Middle School in the North Forest Independent School District  
24 before joining the Houston ISD; he went on to coach baseball and

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

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

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

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

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

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