

By: Blanco

H.R. No. 399

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In a fitting tribute to an outstanding career that
2 spanned more than four decades, basketball coach Nolan Richardson
3 is being inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as a member of
4 the Class of 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Segundo Barrio in El Paso, Nolan
6 Richardson graduated from Bowie High School and went on to attend
7 Texas Western College, where he played for legendary coach Don
8 Haskins; after beginning his career as a head coach at the high
9 school level, he entered the collegiate ranks in 1978 as the head
10 coach at Western Texas College; in 1980, he led the Westerners to an
11 undefeated record and the National Junior College Athletic
12 Association championship, and the following year he accepted the
13 head coaching position at the University of Tulsa; there, he guided
14 the team to a National Invitation Tournament title and compiled an
15 exemplary 119-37 overall record; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Richardson took over the program at the
17 University of Arkansas in 1985, and during his 17 seasons at the
18 school, he helped the Razorbacks reach new levels of success;
19 employing an up-tempo offense and an aggressive pressure defense,
20 his squads played in the Final Four three times, and Arkansas proved
21 itself the finest team in the country in 1994, when it won the NCAA
22 Division I national championship; by the time Coach Richardson
23 completed his tenure in 2002, he had become the winningest coach in
24 the university's history; and

1 WHEREAS, This esteemed mentor has received numerous
2 accolades, including the National Coach of the Year award in 1994
3 and induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame
4 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; moreover, he
5 remains the only college coach to win a junior college
6 championship, an NIT title, and an NCAA Tournament crown; and

7 WHEREAS, Dedicated to helping others, Coach Richardson hosts
8 the Nolan Richardson Charity Golf Tournament each year in El Paso,
9 an event that benefits a number of worthwhile charitable
10 initiatives in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; in recognition of his
11 accomplishments and his noteworthy contributions to his hometown, a
12 middle school, a street, and a recreation center in El Paso all bear
13 his name; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the course of his exceptional career, Nolan
15 Richardson distinguished himself as one of the top college
16 basketball coaches in the nation, and he is indeed deserving of this
17 prestigious hall of fame honor; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Nolan Richardson on his induction
20 into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and extend to him sincere best
21 wishes for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Coach Richardson as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives.