

By: Márquez

H.R. No. 1705

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the  
2 dramatic triumph by the Texas Western College men's basketball team  
3 in the final game of the NCAA tournament, and this milestone offers  
4 a welcome opportunity to reflect on the squad's historic national  
5 championship; and

6           WHEREAS, The Miners basketball team from Texas Western  
7 College, now The University of Texas at El Paso, not only thrilled  
8 its many fans by claiming the title in 1966, it also achieved a  
9 major breakthrough that helped usher in an era of greater equality  
10 in sports; and

11           WHEREAS, Though the civil rights movement in the United  
12 States had achieved a number of important goals by the mid-1960s,  
13 racial discrimination and segregation still existed in many facets  
14 of American life, including collegiate athletics; that became  
15 starkly clear on March 19, 1966, in College Park, Maryland, when the  
16 Miners matched up against the University of Kentucky in the NCAA  
17 final; in that game, Texas Western became the first program to start  
18 five African American players in a national championship game;  
19 Kentucky, on the other hand, had a roster composed entirely of white  
20 players, and its coach, Adolph Rupp, was opposed to the racial  
21 integration of his team; and

22           WHEREAS, Led by head coach Don Haskins, Texas Western took an  
23 early lead on its opponent and never looked back, claiming the NCAA  
24 title in a 72-65 victory; in so doing, the Miners shattered the myth

1 that a multiracial team could not reach the pinnacle of success on  
2 the court; moreover, they helped open the door to new opportunities  
3 for African American players throughout the nation, and their  
4 accomplishment would later be depicted in *Glory Road*, the book  
5 Coach Haskins wrote about that unforgettable season, as well a film  
6 adaptation of his memoir; and

7 WHEREAS, The talented and determined players who made up the  
8 1966 Texas Western squad included Jerry Armstrong, Orsten Artis,  
9 Louis Baudoin, Willie Cager, Harry Flournoy, Bobby Joe Hill, David  
10 Lattin, Dick Myers, David Palacio, Togo Railey, Nevil Shed, and  
11 Willie Worsley; and

12 WHEREAS, The 1966 Texas Western basketball team played an  
13 integral role in promoting the desegregation of college sports  
14 while also becoming the only Texas team to date to win the NCAA  
15 title in men's basketball, and that special moment in Lone Star  
16 sports history is indeed deserving of special recognition; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Texas  
20 Western College basketball team's victory in the NCAA national  
21 championship game; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for The University of Texas at El Paso as an expression of  
24 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.