

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 3226

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of his superlative achievements as a
2 coach, Fred Kniffen was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis
3 Association Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame at an enshrinement
4 banquet in Waco on May 20, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Clyde, Fred Kniffen was an outstanding
6 player at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, helping the
7 school's tennis program to attain national prominence by winning
8 Border Conference singles and doubles titles in 1957 and 1958; and

9 WHEREAS, After beginning his career in coaching at Abilene
10 Cooper High School, Mr. Kniffen was named head coach at Tyler
11 Junior College in 1973; he guided the Apaches to four national
12 championships and helped 31 players earn Junior College
13 All-American honors; and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Kniffen was hired by The University of Texas
15 at Tyler in 1985, and during his nine years with the Patriots tennis
16 program, his players claimed two National Association of
17 Intercollegiate Athletics team championships as well as one
18 national title in singles and one in doubles; in addition, UT Tyler
19 won the NAIA District 4 crown each season that he was at the helm;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Repeatedly honored for his ability to inspire his
22 athletes, Coach Kniffen earned numerous national coach of the year
23 awards during his impressive tenure in college tennis; moreover, he
24 has been inducted into the Tyler Junior College Sports Circle of

1 Honor and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and he has also been named
2 as a hall of fame honoree by UT Tyler Athletics, the NAIA, the Texas
3 Tennis Coaches Association, and Hardin-Simmons University; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the course of his stellar career, Fred Kniffen
5 led his teams to great success and made a positive difference in the
6 lives of hundreds of student-athletes, and he has earned a place
7 among the legendary coaches of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Fred Kniffen on his induction into
11 the ITA Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame and extend to him
12 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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