

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 172

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso men's basketball
2 team celebrated the 50th anniversary of its landmark national
3 championship win with a game against Western Kentucky University on
4 February 6, 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, On March 19, 1966, The University of Texas at El
6 Paso, then known as Texas Western College, defeated the University
7 of Kentucky 72-65 in the finale of the NCAA tournament; at a time
8 when black athletes were woefully underrepresented in college
9 sports, Miners head coach Don Haskins started five African
10 Americans, something that had never been done in an NCAA
11 championship game; that historic contest, against an all-white team
12 that was ranked No. 1 in the nation, came at the height of the civil
13 rights era and called attention to the issue of segregation in
14 college basketball; the game also marks the only national
15 championship title ever won by a Division 1 men's college
16 basketball team in Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, In the anniversary matchup, UTEP beat Western
18 Kentucky 93-89 in overtime; significantly, the Hilltoppers had also
19 competed in the 1966 NCAA tournament, starting two African American
20 players; and

21 WHEREAS, The achievements realized by Coach Haskins and the
22 1966 Miners team helped expand opportunities for players of every
23 race to excel based on their hard work, skill, and talent, and it is
24 indeed fitting that they be honored for their contributions to the

1 sport; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1966
4 NCAA national championship victory by The University of Texas at El
5 Paso men's basketball team and congratulate the 2016 team on its win
6 in the anniversary game; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for The University of Texas at El Paso men's basketball
9 team as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
10 Representatives.