

By: Romero, Jr.

H.R. No. 1355

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Wesleyan University men's basketball team
2 furthered its tradition of success on the hardwood by winning the
3 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division I
4 national championship on March 21, 2017, at Municipal Auditorium in
5 Kansas City, Missouri; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rams' outstanding play began early in the
7 season, and they claimed the Sooner Athletic Conference regular
8 season crown with a stellar 13-5 record in conference play; taking
9 that momentum into the national tournament, the squad dispatched
10 opponents from the University of the Cumberland, The Master's
11 University, Dalton State College, and William Penn University to
12 set up a championship battle against Life University; and

13 WHEREAS, Taking charge from the outset, the Rams established
14 a commanding 35-23 lead in the first half; they then held off a
15 resurgent Eagles offense after the intermission to win by a final
16 score of 86-76, claiming the second national title in the
17 university's history; and

18 WHEREAS, Pacing the group was senior guard Dion Rogers, who
19 received the Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award after tallying
20 28 points and 8 rebounds; he was joined on the All-Tournament Team
21 by fellow Rams Najee Young, a senior guard, and Ryan Harris, a
22 junior guard; and

23 WHEREAS, Throughout the season, the squad also received
24 valuable contributions from the other members of the roster: Chier

1 Ajou, Pat Listach, Naiel Smith, Jalil Francois, Trevon Jeffery,
2 Chris Alexander, Praneeth Udumalagala, Demarcus Emanuel, Jeremy
3 Crane, Peyton Prudhomme, Shaun Rost, and Jacob Lopez; these
4 exceptional athletes benefited from the skilled guidance of head
5 coach Brennen Shingleton, associate head coach Matt Garnett,
6 assistant coach Orlando Carrillo, and student assistants Larry
7 Wilson and Sam Akano; and

8 WHEREAS, Winning a national championship represents the
9 culmination of countless hours of training and an unwavering
10 commitment to excellence, and the members of the Texas Wesleyan
11 University basketball team will carry the memory of this
12 accomplishment with them for the rest of their lives; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate the Texas Wesleyan University
16 men's basketball team on winning the 2017 NAIA Division I national
17 championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff
18 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the Rams as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.