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By:  Patterson H.R. No. 1209

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, By continuing his legendary career into a 21st year with the Dallas Mavericks, Dirk Nowitzki has set an NBA record for the longest tenure with one team, and this milestone season offers a welcome opportunity to salute his exceptional accomplishments in professional basketball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowitzki has played in more than 1,500 NBA games, and with a total of over 31,400 points, he stands as the sixth all-time leading scorer in NBA history; long recognized as one of basketball's top performers, he achieved the rare distinction of being selected to the All-NBA Team 12 years in a row, and he played in his 14th All-Star Game in 2019; and

WHEREAS, A native of Wurzburg, Germany, Mr. Nowitzki played pro basketball in his home country as a teenager and gained the attention of NBA scouts during a 1998 exhibition game in San Antonio; selected by the Milwaukee Bucks with the ninth overall pick in the NBA draft that same year, he was immediately traded to Dallas; he led the Mavs to 53 victories in 2000-2001, sparking a run of 11 consecutive seasons in which the team won at least 50 games; after guiding Dallas to its inaugural NBA Finals appearance in 2006, he was honored as the league's MVP the following year, becoming the first European player to receive that prestigious accolade; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowitzki earned a special place in the hearts of Texas sports fans in 2011, when he piloted the Mavs to their only championship to date, and he was named the NBA Finals MVP for his outstanding performance; a seven-foot-tall power forward whose perimeter shooting has helped revolutionize the position, he is the league's highest-scoring foreign-born player, and he has rewritten the Mavericks' record book, becoming the team's all-time leader in points, rebounds, blocked shots, minutes played, field goals, three-pointers, and free throws; and

WHEREAS, Recognized for his selfless actions on and off the court, Mr. Nowitzki has garnered the league's Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year Award and the Magic Johnson Award; moreover, he is a two-time recipient of the NBA Cares Community Assist Award, and he oversees the Dirk Nowitzki Foundation, which funds charitable initiatives focused on assisting children; and

WHEREAS, A superb athlete and a respected leader, Dirk Nowitzki has distinguished himself as one of the NBA's all-time greats, and his myriad achievements will continue to inspire basketball fans across the Lone Star State and beyond for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dirk Nowitzki on his exemplary career in professional basketball and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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