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By:  Anderson H.R. No. 1258

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Baylor University women's basketball team once again proved itself the finest in the nation by winning the 2019 NCAA Division I championship on April 7; and

WHEREAS, The Lady Bears' journey to the title began with a 10-game winning streak to open the season; they followed with a perfect run against their conference opponents to sweep the Big 12 regular-season and tournament titles and entered the NCAA tournament as a No. 1 seed and the nation's top-ranked team; and

WHEREAS, In the Greensboro Regional, Baylor crushed Abilene Christian 95-38 to launch its championship bid and then notched commanding victories over California, South Carolina, and Iowa to punch its ticket to the Final Four for the fourth time; in the semifinal game, the Lady Bears pitted their signature defense against Oregon's explosive offense in a contest that ultimately featured 12 ties and 12 lead changes; the Baylor players were relentless down the stretch, scoring a go-ahead layup with 41 seconds remaining and icing the win from the free-throw line to move on to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, Competing for the title in front of more than 20,000 fans on April 7, Baylor battled defending national champion Notre Dame; the Lady Bears took charge in the first half, leading by as many as 17 points, but the momentum shifted late in the third quarter when Baylor standout Lauren Cox was sidelined with a knee injury; mounting a fourth-quarter comeback, Notre Dame knotted the contest at 74-all and then pulled ahead; with their title hopes on the line, the Lady Bears refused to give in, hitting clutch shots in the final minute, including the game-winning layup with 3.9 seconds on the clock; triumphing by a final score of 82-81, the team cut down the nets in celebration of their school's third national crown; and

WHEREAS, Baylor was paced by Chloe Jackson, who scored 26 points, including the winning bucket; she was named the championship game's Most Outstanding Player and joined Ms. Cox and Kalani Brown on the All-Tournament Team; the Lady Bears also received valuable contributions throughout the season from the other members of the roster: Caitlin Bickle, Aquira DeCosta, Queen Egbo, Honesty Scott-Grayson, Juicy Landrum, DiDi Richards, NaLyssa Smith, Trinity Oliver, and Moon Ursin; and

WHEREAS, These determined student-athletes were ably guided by Kim Mulkey, who became one of only three head coaches to win three or more NCAA Division I women's titles, having also led Baylor to the 2005 and 2012 crowns; the team enjoyed additional support from associate head coach Bill Brock, assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Sytia Messer, and assistant coach Toyelle Wilson; and

WHEREAS, By accomplishing the rare feat of winning a third national championship, the Baylor Lady Bears have burnished their reputation as a basketball powerhouse, and all those associated with the team may reflect with pride on a job well done; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Baylor University women's basketball team on winning the 2019 NCAA Division I national championship and extend to the players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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