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By:  Neave H.R. No. 1318

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki retired from the National Basketball Association on April 11, 2019, and this occasion offers a welcome opportunity to salute his outstanding accomplishments in the sport; and

WHEREAS, The 2018-2019 season was Mr. Nowitzki's 21st with the Mavericks, which set an NBA record for the longest tenure with one team; during his final campaign, he moved into sixth place on the list of all-time leading scorers in NBA history, and when he netted 20 points in his final game, he brought his career total to a remarkable 31,560; his farewell year also saw him take the floor for his 14th All-Star Game; and

WHEREAS, A native of Würzburg, Germany, this exceptional athlete played pro basketball in his home country as a teenager and first gained the attention of NBA scouts in 1998; after being selected by the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA draft that year, he was immediately traded to Dallas; his presence helped transform the franchise, and during 2000-2001, the Mavs recorded the first of what would become 11 consecutive seasons in which they won 50 games or more; in 2006, he helped the team make its debut in the NBA Finals, and the next year he became the first European player to receive the league's Most Valuable Player honor; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Mr. Nowitzki earned a place in the pantheon of legendary Texas sports heroes by leading the Mavs to the NBA championship, and he was named the finals MVP for his extraordinary performance; his elite position among Dallas players is also reflected in the record books; he is the team's all-time leader in points, rebounds, blocked shots, minutes played, field goals, and three-pointers; and

WHEREAS, Selected to the All-NBA Team 12 years in a row, Mr. Nowitzki's accolades also include the Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year Award, which recognized his selfless play and leadership, and the Magic Johnson Award, which honored his cooperation with the media and the public; 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 related to children; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of more than two decades, Dirk Nowitzki distinguished himself as one the NBA's finest players, and the success he achieved as a member of the Dallas Mavericks will be remembered and admired long into the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dirk Nowitzki on his retirement from the NBA and commend him on his exemplary career in professional basketball; 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.