86R20719 CW-D

By:  Lambert H.R. No. 1860

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Abilene Christian University men's basketball team enjoyed an exceptional 2018-2019 season, winning the Southland Conference Tournament championship and advancing to the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament for the first time in school history; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of head coach Joe Golding, the Wildcats compiled an outstanding 25-6 record in the regular season and were the No. 2 seed in the Southland Conference Tournament, held March 13 through 16 in Katy; after opening with a 69-66 victory over Southeastern Louisiana University, ACU advanced to the tournament final against the University of New Orleans; the Wildcats built a 15-point lead before intermission in that contest and dominated with a smothering defense the rest of the way; triumphing by a final score of 77-60, the ACU players erupted in celebration of their automatic NCAA bid; Jaren Lewis was named the Most Valuable Player of the conference tournament, and Jaylen Franklin and Payten Ricks earned a place on the All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, Taking great pride in seeing their university's name on the March Madness bracket for the first time, the Abilene Christian players tipped off against the University of Kentucky on March 21 in their first-round Midwest Regional game in Jacksonville, Florida; the matchup of two Wildcat programs--No. 2 seed Kentucky and No. 15 seed ACU--captured the attention of fans nationwide, and the Lone Star State's Wildcats put up a fierce fight before seeing their season come to an end; thrilling Texans with their storybook season, the Wildcats set a new standard of program excellence and tied the school record for most season wins with 27; and

WHEREAS, The talented and hardworking members of the Abilene Christian University men's basketball team have realized a tremendous accomplishment by playing in the NCAA tournament, and in so doing, they have earned the admiration of the entire ACU community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Abilene Christian University men's basketball team on winning the Southland Conference Tournament championship and competing in the NCAA Division I tournament and extend to all those associated with the team sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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