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By:  Kacal H.R. No. 51

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Mitch Thompson of McLennan Community College has been named the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association after leading the Highlanders to the national championship; and

WHEREAS, This notable accolade follows an unforgettable season in which the Highlanders finished with an overall record of 47-16 and claimed conference and regional titles before earning their first NJCAA national championship in 38 years; Coach Thompson was also named the Bus Bergman Coach of the Tournament after the team's exciting postseason run that ended with a 7-3 victory over Central Arizona College on June 4; and

WHEREAS, Since taking the helm at McLennan Community College in 2014, Coach Thompson has established himself as one of the top coaches in the nation; he has helped the Highlanders tally more than 300 wins and make three trips to the World Series, including a runner-up finish in 2015 and a fifth-place showing in 2017; many of his players have advanced to play for NCAA Division I programs, and he was honored in 2015 as the Region V Coach of the Year and as the *Waco Tribune-Herald* Sportsman of the Year after guiding McLennan to its first regional championship in 32 years; in addition, his athletes have excelled in the classroom, earning multiple NJCAA All-Academic Team accolades; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson played baseball while pursuing his bachelor's degree at Fort Hays State University, and he went on to coach at Radford University, Auburn University, and Mississippi State University, where he received his master's degree in 1991; from 1995 to 2012, he was the hitting instructor and recruiting coordinator at Baylor University, helping the Bears to collect three Big 12 titles and to make an appearance in the 2005 College World Series; he was honored as the 2006 ABCA National Assistant Coach of the Year, and prior to taking charge of the Highlanders, he served as a scout for the Kansas City Royals; in all his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of his wife, Amber, and his daughters, Mary Conley and Caroline; and

WHEREAS, Through his leadership and expertise, Mitch Thompson is building a tradition of baseball excellence at McLennan Community College, and he is indeed deserving of this prestigious award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Mitch Thompson on his selection as the 2021 NJCAA Division I Coach of the Year 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 Coach Thompson as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.