

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 51

R E S O L U T I O N

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

6 WHEREAS, This notable accolade follows an unforgettable
7 season in which the Highlanders finished with an overall record of
8 47-16 and claimed conference and regional titles before earning
9 their first NJCAA national championship in 38 years; Coach Thompson
10 was also named the Bus Bergman Coach of the Tournament after the
11 team's exciting postseason run that ended with a 7-3 victory over
12 Central Arizona College on June 4; and

13 WHEREAS, Since taking the helm at McLennan Community College
14 in 2014, Coach Thompson has established himself as one of the top
15 coaches in the nation; he has helped the Highlanders tally more than
16 300 wins and make three trips to the World Series, including a
17 runner-up finish in 2015 and a fifth-place showing in 2017; many of
18 his players have advanced to play for NCAA Division I programs, and
19 he was honored in 2015 as the Region V Coach of the Year and as the
20 *Waco Tribune-Herald* Sportsman of the Year after guiding McLennan to
21 its first regional championship in 32 years; in addition, his
22 athletes have excelled in the classroom, earning multiple NJCAA
23 All-Academic Team accolades; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Thompson played baseball while pursuing his

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
17 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Mitch
18 Thompson on his selection as the 2021 NJCAA Division I Coach of the
19 Year and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Coach Thompson as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.