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By:  Anderson H.R. No. 643

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Baylor University women's basketball team furthered its proud tradition of excellence during the 2020-2021 season by winning the Big 12 regular season and tournament championships and advancing to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Suffering just two losses during their regular schedule, the Lady Bears went 17-1 against their league rivals to capture their 11th consecutive Big 12 season crown, and in so doing, they joined five other programs for the longest such streak in Division I women's basketball history; in the Big 12 tournament, Baylor defeated Texas Christian, Texas, and West Virginia, cruising to its third consecutive tournament championship; and

WHEREAS, The Big 12 tournament triumph earned the Lady Bears an invitation to the "Big Dance" of the NCAA tournament; as the number two seed in the River Walk Region, Baylor routed Jackson State and Virginia Tech in the first two games and then met Michigan in a nail-biting showdown in the regional semifinals; the Lady Bears prevailed 78-75 in overtime to advance to the Elite Eight round of the tournament, where their season came to an end in a hard-fought loss to Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Baylor players received numerous accolades for their exceptional play during the season; Junior NaLyssa Smith was named the Big 12 Women's Basketball Player of the Year as well as the conference tournament's Most Outstanding Player; seniors DiJonai Carrington and Moon Ursin joined her on the All-Tournament Team, and Ms. Carrington earned recognition as the league's Top Sixth Player and Newcomer of the Year; Baylor also received essential contributions throughout the year from the other members of the roster: DiDi Richards, Trinity Oliver, Jaden Owens, Jordyn Oliver, Hannah Gusters, Kamaria McDaniel, Sarah Andrews, Queen Egbo, Chrislyn Carr, and Caitlin Bickle; Baylor excels under the leadership of head coach Kim Mulkey, who has won three national championships at the university and will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021; additional guidance was provided by associate head coach Bill Brock, assistant coaches Sytia Messer and Kaylin Rice, and the other members of the staff; and

WHEREAS, With its impressive record of sustained success, the Baylor women's basketball team remains one of the top programs in the country, and the Lady Bears are a source of great pride to their many fans across the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Baylor University women's basketball team on its successful 2020-2021 season and extend to all those associated with the team sincere best wishes for the future; 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.