H.R. No. 1469

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, El Paso native and trailblazing basketball coach Nolan Richardson has proven himself an exceptional leader and role model during his decorated career; and

WHEREAS, While growing up in Segundo Barrio, Nolan Richardson was a standout athlete in football, basketball, and baseball at Bowie High School; he then went on to star in basketball at Texas Western College, now The University of Texas at El Paso, before embarking on his coaching career; after a successful 10-year tenure leading his high school alma mater, he moved to the college ranks and accepted a head coaching position at Western Texas College in Snyder; in his third season with the program, the team went undefeated and won the junior college national championship; at his next stop, the coach spent five seasons at the University of Tulsa, earning the school the 1981 National Invitation Tournament championship; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Coach Richardson took the reins at the University of Arkansas; known for their tenacious defense and a style of play nicknamed "40 Minutes of Hell," his Razorbacks teams won seven conference championships in 17 seasons and made three trips to the Final Four; in 1994, the team defeated Duke University to capture the NCAA Division I national championship, and he was honored as the Naismith Coach of the Year; in later years, he coached the Mexican and Panamanian national teams and was the head coach and general manager of the Tulsa Shock of the Women's National Basketball Association; the only coach to win the junior college, NIT, and NCAA championships, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014; and

WHEREAS, A pioneering figure in his profession, Coach Richardson was the first Black head basketball coach at many of the institutions where he worked and was the first for the entire Southwest Conference; he has long been an outspoken advocate on social justice issues and has also been active in a range of community initiatives; to honor the loss of his daughter, he started the Yvonne Richardson Memorial Foundation, which has raised over $3 million to provide financial assistance to terminally ill children and their families, more than 50 charitable organizations, and fund several scholarships at The University of Texas at El Paso, in addition, the annual Nolan Richardson Charity Golf Tournament raises money for charities in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas such as the Yvonne Richardson Community Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Through his hard work, integrity, and commitment to helping others, Nolan Richardson sets an inspiring example for his fellow citizens, and he is indeed deserving of recognition for his outstanding efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor Nolan Richardson for his professional accomplishments and civic engagement and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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

Fierro

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1469 was adopted by the House on May 26, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House