

By: Canales

H.R. No. 339

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt by
2 the family, friends, colleagues, and players of Lewis Daniel
3 Hill Sr., the head coach of The University of Texas Rio Grande
4 Valley men's basketball team, who passed away on February 7, 2021,
5 at the age of 55; and

6 WHEREAS, The son of Gary and Annie Hill, Lew Hill was born in
7 Clinton, North Carolina, on April 11, 1965, and grew up in Mount
8 Vernon, New York, with a brother, Emory; an exceptional athlete, he
9 was an all-state basketball player at Mount Vernon High School and
10 an All-American for San Jacinto College in 1983 and 1984, helping
11 the Ravens to win a national championship; he went on to earn
12 All-Missouri Valley Conference honors at Wichita State University,
13 where he earned a criminal justice degree; he then competed
14 professionally for one year in Germany before returning to Kansas
15 to coach the team at Wichita East High School; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Hill began his collegiate coaching
17 career as an assistant at the University of South Alabama, followed
18 by tenures at Southeast Missouri State and East Carolina
19 Universities; after serving as an assistant and associate head
20 coach at Texas A&M, he worked as an assistant at the University of
21 Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Oklahoma; and

22 WHEREAS, On March 31, 2016, Coach Hill took the reins of the
23 men's basketball program at The University of Texas Rio Grande
24 Valley; his leadership and expertise quickly transformed the team,

1 and during his second year, he led the Vaqueros to their first
2 postseason appearance in 37 years; UTRGV collected its debut
3 postseason win as an NCAA Division I program in the subsequent
4 2018-2019 campaign, and he was named a finalist for the Ben Jobe
5 Award, which recognizes the top minority coach in Division I men's
6 basketball; in 2020, his players won 8 of 10 games down the stretch
7 and claimed the No. 2 seed at the Western Athletic Conference
8 Tournament, the highest ranking in school history; and

9 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Coach Hill enjoyed the love
10 and support of his wife, Franchetta Renee; he was the devoted father
11 of five children, Lewis, Sierra, Erica, Asya, and Elle, and he took
12 great pride in his six grandchildren, Joshua, Shaniya, Johnathan,
13 Ayden, Aria, and Denim; known for his charismatic personality, he
14 was a trusted friend and colleague to many and had a talent for
15 making others feel special; and

16 WHEREAS, Earning the lasting respect of his players and his
17 peers, Lew Hill made a positive difference in the lives of countless
18 people, and his contributions to UTRGV athletics will be
19 appreciated for years to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Lewis Daniel
22 Hill Sr. and extend deepest condolences to all who mourn his
23 passing; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lew Hill.