

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A milestone in the history of Baylor University
2 athletics was realized on April 5, 2021, when the men's basketball
3 team earned its first NCAA Division I national championship; and

4 WHEREAS, The title game victory closed out an unforgettable
5 year that began with a 17-game winning streak; the Bears went on to
6 secure their inaugural Big 12 Conference regular-season crown after
7 posting a 13-1 league record, and the team realized another first
8 when it entered the NCAA tournament as a No. 1 seed; and

9 WHEREAS, Playing in the tournament's South Region, Baylor
10 notched commanding March Madness victories over Hartford,
11 Wisconsin, and Villanova before besting Arkansas to punch its
12 ticket to the Final Four for the first time since 1950; matching up
13 against the University of Houston in the semifinals, the Bears
14 showcased their precision shooting and stifling defense to prevail
15 78-59 and secure a berth in the championship contest; and

16 WHEREAS, Taking the floor at Lucas Oil Stadium in
17 Indianapolis for the marquee title game, Baylor faced the
18 undefeated and top-ranked squad from Gonzaga University; the Bears
19 were undaunted and took charge from the opening tip-off; jumping
20 out to a 9-0 lead and a 47-37 halftime advantage, they continued to
21 dominate down the stretch, never allowing Gonzaga to come closer
22 than nine points; emerging victorious by the final score of 86-70,
23 the Bears hoisted the championship trophy and closed out a
24 storybook year with an overall record of 28 wins and only two

1 losses; and

2 WHEREAS, Baylor was led by Jared Butler, the Final Four Most
3 Outstanding Player, who scored 22 points in the finale; notable
4 honors were also claimed by Davion Mitchell, who was named both the
5 Naismith and National Association of Basketball Coaches Defensive
6 Player of the Year; the Bears also received valuable contributions
7 throughout the season from the other members of the roster: Flo
8 Thamba, L. J. Cryer, Jordan Turner, Adam Flagler, Mark Vital,
9 Jackson Moffatt, Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua, Matthew Mayer, MaCio
10 Teague, Zach Loveday, Mark Paterson, and Dain Dainja; these
11 determined athletes were ably guided by head coach Scott Drew, who
12 won the Associated Press and Big 12 Coach of the Year awards and is
13 the youngest active coach in college basketball to win a national
14 championship; vital support was also provided by associate head
15 coach Jerome Tang, assistant coaches Alvin Brooks III and John
16 Jakus, and the other members of the Baylor staff; and

17 WHEREAS, Playing with exemplary skill, determination, and
18 teamwork, the Baylor Bears realized their season-long goal of
19 becoming national champions, and their achievement will forever be
20 a proud memory for the university's loyal fans throughout Texas and
21 beyond; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
23 Legislature hereby congratulate the Baylor University men's
24 basketball team on winning the 2021 NCAA Division I national
25 championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff
26 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 644

1 prepared for the Bears as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.

Anderson

H.R. No. 644

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 644 was adopted by the House on April 16, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House