

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 1469

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

16 WHEREAS, In 1985, Coach Richardson took the reins at the
17 University of Arkansas; known for their tenacious defense and a
18 style of play nicknamed "40 Minutes of Hell," his Razorbacks teams
19 won seven conference championships in 17 seasons and made three
20 trips to the Final Four; in 1994, the team defeated Duke University
21 to capture the NCAA Division I national championship, and he was
22 honored as the Naismith Coach of the Year; in later years, he
23 coached the Mexican and Panamanian national teams and was the head
24 coach and general manager of the Tulsa Shock of the Women's National

1 Basketball Association; the only coach to win the junior college,
2 NIT, and NCAA championships, he was inducted into the Naismith
3 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014; and

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Coach Richardson as an expression of high regard by the

H.R. No. 1469

1 Texas House of Representatives.