

H. Res. 668

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

February 28, 2006.

Whereas Don Haskins was a high school basketball star at Enid High School in Enid, Oklahoma, a college standout at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State) under his mentor, Coach Hank Iba, and a successful Texas high school basketball coach, amassing a 157–41 win-loss record coaching Benjamin, Hedley, and Dumas High Schools;

Whereas in 1961 Don Haskins became the coach of the men’s basketball team at Texas Western College, which was later renamed the University of Texas at El Paso;

Whereas early in the 1965–1966 basketball season Don Haskins told Texas Western president Joseph Ray, “The way our boys line up now, my six best boys are black. If I leave two or three of them out because they’re black, they’ll know it. [And] the white boys will know it.”;

Whereas the 1966 Texas Western team of Bobby Joe Hill (Detroit, Michigan), Orsten Artis (Gary, Indiana), Togo Railey (El Paso, Texas), Willie Worsley (New York, New York), David Palacio (El Paso, Texas), Dick Myers (Peabody, Kansas), Harry Flournoy (Gary, Indiana), Louis Baudoin (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Nevil Shed (New York, New York), Jerry Armstrong (Eagleville, Missouri), Willie Cager (New York, New York), and David

“Big Daddy” Lattin (Houston, Texas) finished the basketball season 28–1;

Whereas on March 19, 1966, Coach Don Haskins’ all-black starting line-up, the first such line-up to ever appear in a major championship contest, defeated the heavily-favored University of Kentucky to win the NCAA Basketball Championship, an event defined by many as the “Brown v. Board of Education of athletics”;

Whereas the Miners’ victory accelerated the pace of racial integration in college athletics and contributed to the expansion of the civil rights movement into the realm of sports;

Whereas when recounting his historic impact on diversity in college sports, Don Haskins said, “I just played my best guys, like any coach would do.”; and

Whereas over the course of his career Don Haskins also coached the Miners to 32 winning seasons, seven Western Athletic Conference championships, four Western Athletic Conference tournament titles, and 21 post-season appearances, creating a proud tradition of college basketball success and community spirit in El Paso that persists to this day and winning entry into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the 40th anniversary of Texas Western’s 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship and recognizes the groundbreaking im-

pact of the title game victory on diversity in sports and civil rights in America.

Attest:

Clerk.