



HR0903

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Lou Henson had a distinguished coaching career,
3 especially at the University of Illinois, one of the premier
4 universities in the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Beloved couple Lou Henson and his wife Mary were
6 deeply involved in the Champaign-Urbana community and
7 throughout the State of Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Lou Henson contributed a large amount of his time
9 and resources to charities and organizations in the State; and

10 WHEREAS, As a result of nearly 800 wins as a college coach,
11 of achieving Big 10 and Big West Championships, and of playing
12 in two NCAA Final Four Championships with Illinois and New
13 Mexico State, Lou Henson has been inducted into the Illinois
14 Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and the National Collegiate
15 Basketball Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, Lou Henson is one the top 20 winningest college
17 basketball coaches of all time; and

18 WHEREAS, Lou Henson had basketball courts at both Illinois
19 and New Mexico State named in his honor; he is one of two
20 coaches ever to achieve that kind of recognition; and

1 WHEREAS, Lou Henson coached one of the most exciting teams
2 in the history of college basketball, the 1989 Flying Illini,
3 which was comprised entirely of Illinois-born players who had
4 graduated from high schools in Illinois, which included
5 Chicago, Jacksonville, Aurora, Alton, and Matteson, among
6 others; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1962, Lou Henson refused to accept the head
8 coaching position at Hardin-Simmons University until the
9 trustees agreed to desegregate the school, the basketball team,
10 and the coaching staff, demonstrating leadership when it was
11 not fashionable; and

12 WHEREAS, Upon Lou Henson's death, tributes from around the
13 country from players, coaches, fans, and neighbors described
14 him as a man of great faith, a man defined by patience, a man
15 always willing to talk to a stranger, a man never given to
16 swearing or demeaning his players, and a man who showed respect
17 to everyone; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we honor the life of Coach Lou Henson and recognize the
21 contributions he made to the State of Illinois, and we support
22 his nomination for inclusion in the Naismith Memorial

1 Basketball Hall of Fame; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 delivered to the Selection Committee of the Naismith Memorial
4 Basketball Hall of Fame.