



# EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

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## RESOLUTION



*Whereas*, for 125 years, the Olympic Movement has worked to build a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through amateur athletics, bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play; and,

*Whereas*, as the longtime college basketball coach Rick Majerus once put it: “It was one of the most socially meaningful victories in the history of sports. The Schmeling-Louis fight of college basketball.” The five Texas Western starters Bobby Joe Hill, David Lattin, Willie Worsley, Harry Flournoy and Orsten Artis did more than triumph over one of college basketball’s most storied programs in the Kentucky Wildcats, coached by the renowned Adolph Rupp and led that season by Pat Riley. The victory drew attention to the racially exclusionary policies in the Southeastern Conference and elsewhere, and it contributed to the collegiate recruitment of black players nationally. Haskins’s unlikely path to a national championship gained renewed attention in 2006 in the movie “Glory Road,” based on the book of the same title written by Haskins with Dan Wetzel. Haskins, the son of a truck driver, played basketball at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State) for the Hall of Fame coach Hank Iba. After coaching high school basketball, he became the Texas Western coach in 1961 and remained at the university for 38 seasons. He had a career record of 719-354 and took his teams to the N.C.A.A. tournament 14 times and to the National Invitation Tournament 7 times. His squads won seven Western Athletic Conference championships. ***He was an assistant coach for the 1972 Olympic basketball team.***

Known for his grueling practices and his intense man-to-man defenses, Haskins was called the Bear for his robust build and rough-hewn manner. When the Bear faced the Baron, as Rupp was known, Texas Western prevailed. But Haskins pointed to more than the national implications of that victory. When he was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., in 1997, he said: “Ten of the 12 players on the team got their degrees. And every one of the players have made successes of their lives” and;

*Whereas*, the people of the United States stand united in respect for and admiration of the members of the United States Olympic teams, coaches and referees and the athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication to excellence of the United States.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, by the *El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court* that August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 be known as

**“Olympians of El Paso”**

***SIGNED***, this 2nd day of August 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1*

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*Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2*

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*Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3*

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*Commissioner Carl Robinson, Pct. 4*

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*Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge*