

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 734

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John and Mary Margaret Chester upon their receipt of the American Farm Bureau 2008 National Excellence in Agriculture Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, John and Mary Margaret Chester are two such noteworthy citizens who have recently been named the winners of the American Farm Bureau's 2008 National Excellence in Agriculture Award for their distinguished service to the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, a native of Athens, John Chester has worked in production agriculture for more than fifteen years; he worked part-time with Larry and Keith Fowler's 4,400 acre row crop operation while attending classes at the University of Tennessee-Martin and serving in many leadership capacities on campus, including Noble Ruler and Vice-Noble Recruitment of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, President of the Undergraduate Alumni Council, Ambassador for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Undergraduate Director of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustee's Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from the University of Tennessee-Martin in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Mr. Chester received the Paul and Martha Meek Award, the school's highest leadership award, in recognition for his many contributions to the university community; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, John Chester continued to work for the Fowlers and also with his family's dairy farm before he became the Fowlers' first full-time employee in 2002; he now serves as the business's Manager of Operations; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the American Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers program, Mr. Chester has served the organization as Chairman of Weakley County's Young Farmers and Ranchers, District I Officer, and as District I's representative to the Tennessee Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee; he also serves his community as a member of the Weakley County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, married to Mr. Chester in 2002, Mary Margaret Pritchett is an equally important part of her community and the agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, while a student at the University of Tennessee-Martin, Mrs. Chester distinguished herself as an active leader of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and the Undergraduate Alumni Council and as a Student Ambassador and Rho-mate of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; she is currently active with the Weakley County Farm Bureau Women; and

WHEREAS, the couple owns and manages C&P Baling, a business formed in 2003 by Mr. Chester and his brother-in-law Holt Pritchett that offers custom baling services and bales 2,500 large round bales and 30,000 small squares annually in addition to raising almost 100 acres of hybrid Bermuda grass; and

WHEREAS, John and Mary Margaret Chester are active and devout members of the First United Church of Martin, where they both serve as children's Sunday school teachers and Co-Chairs of the Family Ministries Committee; Mrs. Chester also serves on the Evangelism Committee and is involved with new member outreach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Chester are perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship they share with their two children, Mary Anna and Luke; and

WHEREAS, John and Mary Margaret epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. and Mrs. Chester for their recent accomplishment and outstanding record of excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend John and Mary Margaret Chester upon their receipt of the American Farm Bureau's 2008 National Excellence in Agriculture Award, as we extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.