

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1021

By Bone

A RESOLUTION celebrating the 100th Anniversary of University of Tennessee Extension and Tennessee 4-H and a century of transforming Tennessee through extension and 4-H.

WHEREAS, the first part-time agricultural agents were hired in six Tennessee counties in 1910 to do “demonstration” work, even before the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, during a time when farm families were struggling to survive and U.S. economies were beginning to transition from agriculture to industrialization; and

WHEREAS, in 1911, six home demonstration agents were hired to work with farm women and girls, and Madison County became the first Tennessee county to match federal funds to employ a county agent; and

WHEREAS, the Smith-Lever Act was passed in 1914, and under its provisions the University of Tennessee (UT) College of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture organized the Tennessee Division of Extension, and the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the University of Tennessee to conduct agricultural extension work in 1915; and

WHEREAS, extension activities were increased to meet the demand for food and supplies during World War I and World War II, educating farm families to produce and conserve food, produce and repair clothing, improve home sanitation and healthy diet, and become proficient in home nursing and helping marshal farm women and girls to feed ailing families; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Tennessee 4-H members turned their attention from individual service projects to war food production, bond sales, and other wartime activities and surpassed their goal of each member producing enough food to support one service member; and

WHEREAS, 4-H members invested their personal savings in \$300,000 worth of war bonds. So significant were the contributions of Tennessee 4-H members that in 1944, the U.S. Maritime Commission granted Tennessee 4-H the honor of naming a ship. Members assisted at the christening of the Liberty Ship S.S. *Charles A. Keffer*, named after the first director of Tennessee Extension; and

WHEREAS, teaching and maintaining education programs for people who live in poverty has become a focus of UT Extension's Family and Consumer Science Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), which still delivers education through locally-based paraprofessionals today. Extension professionals and program assistants teach nutrition, food preparation, and food safety, as well as the importance of physical activity and health; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, UT Extension and the UT Agricultural Experiment Station, along with the National Soil Conservation Service, launched the Save Our Soil Campaign in an effort to promote and teach no till crop production techniques. The average rate of erosion for cropland in Tennessee was then forty tons per acre per year. Now, the rate of erosion is only eight tons per acre per year; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative was created to jump-start a new bioenergy industry in the state by building and operating a pilot scale cellulosic ethanol biorefinery in East Tennessee, and UT Extension has led the farmer incentive program for establishing switchgrass as an energy crop. By 2009, more than 2,600 acres of switchgrass on thirty-eight farms were planted in East Tennessee to feed the biorefinery in Vonore, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, UT Extension has addressed issues brought on by the economic crisis by developing strategies for managing stress. Extension specialists and agents teach practical steps that families facing financial crisis need to take to reduce spending, manage credit, and make lifestyle adjustments to new economic realities. University of Tennessee Extension identifies local support for helping such families and engages them in transitioning into more secure, sustainable, and healthy approaches to living in changing times; and

WHEREAS, UT Extension's educational programs met the real needs of the past, are relevant today, and will meet critical societal needs of the future. As dedicated extension

professionals across the state work for and among the state's homes, farms, businesses, and communities, they continue to commit their heads, hands, and hearts to the task of transforming Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of University of Tennessee Extension and Tennessee 4-H, even as we salute the thousands of extension professionals and 4-H members who have helped Tennessee grow and prosper during the past century through their dedicated efforts.

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