

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the achievements of the
Bradley Central High School chapter of the FFA.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those organizations whose mission is to promote agricultural education and development in this State; and

WHEREAS, the Bradley Central High School (BCHS) chapter of the FFA in Cleveland is one such estimable organization. The BCHS FFA was organized when the school started in 1917; its goal is to promote leadership, personal growth, and career success among high school agriculture students, and it continues to play an important role in ensuring the growth and prosperity of agriculture in Tennessee and the nation by expertly molding our future leaders; and

WHEREAS, the National Chapter Award program, whose ratings are conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes FFA chapters which successfully complete activities which encourage their members to develop leadership and teamwork skills and to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, there are three ratings which can be awarded to the chapters: bronze, silver, or gold, the highest rating. Of the 7,439 high school FFA chapters nationwide, the BCHS FFA is the only chapter with a national record of receiving forty-three consecutive National Chapter Gold Emblem Awards; and

WHEREAS, since 1968, the school has received the highest rating each year, and that tradition continues into 2011 under the leadership of BCHS FFA advisors Lu Ann Gilliland Carey and Richard Ledford and the 102 BCHS students who participate; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for a state or national award, an FFA chapter's activities must meet required quality standards in the areas of student development, chapter development, and community development; and

WHEREAS, the BCHS FFA has exceeded these standards time and again through activities such as volunteering for the River Rescue Clean-Up, Community Garden, and Keep America Beautiful and holding a Farm Day in cooperation with the Foothills Country Fair. The monetary support for these activities is funded in part by the Bradley FFA Alumni and the National FFA Foundation; and

WHEREAS, students who participate in FFA leadership activities are eligible to receive awards, prize money, and college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, this chapter of the FFA is an intracurricular organization of the BCHS Agricultural Science Department and includes four greenhouses, a landscape nursery, a mechanics shop, and a computer lab for the students. The school plans to add an aquaculture and hydroponics lab, a tissue culture lab, and a small animal lab; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depends, in great measure, on the dedication of our students and agricultural innovators and, thanks to the efforts of organizations like the BCHS FFA, Tennessee will continue to lead the world agriculturally for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the laudable achievements of the Bradley Central High School chapter of the FFA and extend to its members our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

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