

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 598

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Glenn Acres Farm, a Tennessee Pioneer Farm and Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Glenn and Gillespie families of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Glenn Acres Farm, owned and operated by the family since a time before the founding of the State of Tennessee, has been designated a Tennessee Pioneer Farm and Century Farm in recognition of its long and varied history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, designation as a Tennessee Pioneer Farm is reserved for those farms which were founded before or during 1796, when Tennessee gained statehood; and

WHEREAS, more than a decade before 1796, Thomas Gillespie was issued a land grant of 4000 acres along Flat Creek and the Duck River in what was then western North Carolina. The land would become part of Williamson County at the time of the county's founding in 1799; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Gillespie family is tied directly with the history of both Williamson County and Tennessee. Thomas Gillespie and his wife, Naomi, had two sons, Issac and David, and a daughter, Lydia. Lydia and her first husband, Captain James Knox, had a

daughter, Jane, who married Samuel Polk. Samuel and Jane Polk's son, James Knox Polk, served as the eleventh President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Issac Gillespie acquired the farm in 1816 and together with his wife, Mary Ann McQuire, built a house on the property, a structure which remains standing today. The Gillespies raised cattle, hay, and corn; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Gillespie, one of Issac and Mary Ann's sons, inherited the farm and, in addition to his father's land, he also inherited a portion of David Gillespie's land in 1866. Bill Gillespie and his wife, the former Elizabeth Reed, had two sons, Samuel and Wallace, and Samuel inherited his father's land upon Bill Gillespie's death in 1914; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Gillespie and his wife, Pauline, farmed the land for more than three decades. In 1948, the farm transferred ownership to relatives Jackie and Lola Reed Glenn; and

WHEREAS, Jackie and Lola Glenn's son, Calvin Glenn, has owned the farm since 1979, since which time he and his wife, Sandra, have farmed 121 acres, raising hay, tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle. Glenn Acres is currently the oldest certified farm in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like the members of the Glenn and Gillespie families, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Calvin C. Glenn and the entire Glenn family, whose Glenn Acres Farm has been designated a Tennessee Pioneer Farm, and Century Farm, commend them for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in 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.