

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 618

By Durham

A RESOLUTION recognizing Sullivan Givens Farm, a Tennessee 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 Sullivan family of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Sullivan Givens Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1904, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farm 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, Sullivan Givens Farm, located in Williamson County, was established in 1904 by Owen Thomas "Tee" Sullivan; Mr. Sullivan was married to Matilda Jane Tidwell, and the couple had nine children; and

WHEREAS, on their 48-acre farm, the Sullivans produced turnips, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, fruit, hogs, and beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, the current owners, Grady and Stacey Givens, who own the now 81.26-acre farm, produce hay, vegetables, fruit, and beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Givens placed the farm in the Grassland Reserve Program, which is a permanent conservation easement protecting the farm from future development for purposes other than agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the property contains several of the original structures, including a general store built and operated in the 1920's, which also served as a bus stop for the Ladd bus line that ran from Nashville to Centerville, and an ice house, fertilizer shed, and equipment shed, which were built in the 1930s and 1940s; a stock pond that was built by the original owner is still in use today; 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 such as the members of the Sullivan family, 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 owners Grady and Stacey Givens, whose Sullivan Givens Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend Mr. and Mrs. Givens and their family 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.