

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 625

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION recognizing Locust Guard 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 Ring family of Williamson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Locust Guard Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1800, has been designated a Tennessee 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, in 1800, Revolutionary War veteran and native North Carolinian John Motheral, and his wife, Jane Currie, established the farm on 400 acres of land, on which the couple raised corn, small grains, and herds of cattle, sheep, and swine; and

WHEREAS, the Motherals were the parents of seven children and, in 1822, they deeded 225 acres to their son, Joseph, who, with his wife, the former Anness Lea Williams, built stone fences, a grist mill, new barns, a milk house, and a machine house for spinning and weaving. To the family's gratitude, the farm and its operations survived the ravages of the Civil War undamaged; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Motheral died in 1872, and his will transferred ownership of all of his lands south of the Harpeth River to his three daughters, Emaline, America, and Jane. His

grandson, Henry Hiram Ring, ran the operations of Locust Guard Farm and, after he acquired his aunts' landholdings and following the death of his mother, Emaline Ring, in 1898, Henry Ring became the farm's sole owner; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ring was a graduate of the University of Tennessee who, for many years, served with acumen and alacrity as a magistrate of Williamson County and, with his wife, Sarah McClellan Ring, introduced the production of honey, walnuts, and alfalfa to Locust Guard Farm; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Ring inherited the 269-acre farm upon her husband's passing in 1930 and, with her sons James E. and Ned Ring, continued farm operations, establishing a large peach and pecan orchard, installing a modern irrigation system, and constructing several new farm buildings; and

WHEREAS, Locust Guard Farm's ownership passed to James and Ned Ring following Sarah's death in 1953, and Ned's nephew, Robert Ring, a graduate of the College of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee, joined the operation in 1959; and

WHEREAS, ownership again changed hands in 1961, when the farm was deeded to Emma Mai Ring and her nephew, Robert Ring. Robert, who served for sixteen years as the Williamson County Executive, raised corn and soybeans, much of which was sharecropped, on the farm; and

WHEREAS, on Locust Guard Farm there stand three early Nineteenth Century buildings, a smokehouse, a milk house, and the original log home; 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 Ring 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 Robert A. Ring and the entire Ring family,

whose Locust Guard Farm has been designated a Tennessee 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.