

HOUSE RESOLUTION 18

By Butt

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Cecil Farm in Maury County upon becoming a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our rural communities and has made significant contributions to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is the Cecil Farm in the Cross Bridges community of Maury County, which is still owned by members of the Cecil family today and has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious 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, today, Ken and Jody Cecil are the proprietors of the farm and keepers of its legacy; however, historical records show the farm began in the mid-1800s when great-great-great-grandfather Samuel Cecil migrated from North Carolina to the Cross Bridges area, bought land, and began farming; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Cecil fathered a son, William, who continued farming in Cross Bridges, and the two of them rest in peace there in the community that they loved; and

WHEREAS, William Cecil had several sons who all farmed, two of whom, John Wilkerson Cecil Sr. and Loyd Cecil, combined properties to form the actual Cecil Farm. Subsequently, John Sr. bought Loyd's property, except for a tract that Loyd gave for the site of Cross Bridges Methodist Church, becoming the sole proprietor of Cecil Farm; and

WHEREAS, John Sr. and wife Molly raised a family of six children, and it was their fifth, John Wilkerson Jr., born in 1887, who was the first child born in the Cecil Farm homeplace; he was Ken's grandfather; and

WHEREAS, John Jr. married Lula Lovell, and their two children, John "Jack" Cecil III and Dot, were the next generation to inherit and remain close to Cecil Farm, though neither ever lived on the actual property. Upon their father's death, the farm was rented to tenants, and Jack and his son, Ken, continued farming the land; and

WHEREAS, Ken and Jody Cecil married in 1975 and have lived on the Cecil Farm property ever since, and raised their three children there; and

WHEREAS, the land is rich and has for many years yielded goodness that sustained personal needs and produced economic prosperity. Today, it supports a mixed herd of cattle and yields high-quality livestock hay; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Ken and Jody Cecil, who demonstrate 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and honor Ken and Jody Cecil of Maury County upon Cecil Farm being designated as a Tennessee Century Farm, commend 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.