

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 701

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Ricky C. Skillington on his illustrious career with the University of Tennessee Extension on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this legislative body to recognize those public servants who have dedicated their careers to making Tennessee an even better place to live; and

WHEREAS, Ricky C. Skillington is one such estimable person, who is retiring after nearly thirty-seven years of exemplary service with the University of Tennessee (UT) Extension; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Skillington began his illustrious Extension career on October 1, 1979, as an Assistant Extension Agent in Lawrence County and took over a program that had a strong history of 4-H youth exhibiting beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, to provide balance in animal husbandry education, he introduced the 4-H market lamb project to the county and added the 4-H poultry project; he also developed an outstanding 4-H judging team program with an emphasis on poultry and meat identification; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Skillington expertly led two teams to national contests, coaching one member who won the High Individual category in the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest and several 4-H members who were national winners for their projects; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1994, Mr. Skillington became the Adult Agriculture Agent and County Director in Marshall County, where he taught farmers to add lime to soils to improve their production while spending less on fertilizer; and

WHEREAS, he introduced thistle weevils to Marshall County to help producers control the musk thistle and disseminated huge numbers of these weevils in every community; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased interest in goat production, Mr. Skillington assisted in the organization of the 4-H goat project and developed goat production educational materials for both adult and youth producers; he also served as the “first responder” for small ruminant production for the University of Tennessee Extension early in the 2000s; and

WHEREAS, Marshall County has more dairies than any other county in Middle Tennessee, and by the early 2010s, it was apparent that its dairy producers were in need of additional Extension assistance; demonstrating his stalwart commitment to his profession, Mr. Skillington developed educational programs, farm visits, and Extension newsletters relative to dairy production to assist not only Marshall County farmers, but also dairy farmers throughout Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Skillington has received numerous awards and honors for his Extension work, but he is especially proud of his tenure as State President of the Tennessee Association of Agriculture Agents and Specialists during the 1999-2000 term and his receipt of the NACAA Distinguished Service Award in 2000; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and accolades aside, he is most grateful for the love, companionship, and support he receives from his wife of more than thirty-three years, Kay Shaw Skillington; their children, Charlie and Ginger; and their granddaughter, Lorili; and

WHEREAS, Ricky C. Skillington exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Skillington has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Ricky C. Skillington our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, as we pay tribute to his distinguished career with the University of Tennessee Extension.

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