

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 333

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Billy Joe and Jean Allison upon their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, husband and wife Billy Joe and Jean Allison are partners in agriculture as well as life; they have been inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of their hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the only child of Victor and Irene Winfree Allison, Billy Joe Allison grew up on his family's dairy farm, where he learned the value of hard work at an early age; he milked cows and also assisted with the tobacco, hay, and corn crops; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Lacy and Ethel Simpson, Jean Allison also grew up on a family farm, which was located only five miles from the Allison farm; she loved farm life and served as sidekick for her father, who also raised and traded livestock; and

WHEREAS, Billy Joe and Jean graduated from Watertown High School a year apart; while Billy Joe Allison went to work for Western Electric in Nashville, Jean Simpson continued her education at Cumberland University; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, they were joined in holy matrimony and moved to the farm where they still live today, some sixty-one years later; and

WHEREAS, the Allisons farmed at night and on weekends until 1964, when they built a Grade A milk barn and embarked upon a thirty-year shared career as dairy farmers; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, they ceased dairy operations and built a commercial beef herd on their picturesque farm; the Allisons have no regrets, because they feel that farming is and has always been a rewarding life; and

WHEREAS, members of the Wilson County Livestock Association who have completed the Master Beef Producer program, Mr. and Mrs. Allison were honored as Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Billy Joe Allison has served as a director of Wilson Farmers Co-op and Wilson County Farm Bureau and was one of the original members of the Community Council for Wilson Bank and Trust; and

WHEREAS, Jean Allison is a nine-year member of the Farm Agency County Committee and has rendered valuable service to the committee as a minority advisor for six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Allison are members of Commerce Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor Billy Joe and Jean Allison for their service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Billy Joe and Jean Allison upon their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect fondly upon their many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

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