

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 897

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Dr. Dwayne Wilson upon being named the 2019 Tennessee Tree Farmer of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take pleasure in recognizing those industrious Tennesseans who excel in their fields of endeavor and bring pride and prosperity to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Dwayne Wilson, who was recently named the 2019 Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, an honor most befitting his dedication to maintaining the integrity of the property and forest under his charge; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson is the fourth-generation owner and operator of Slippery Hills Tree Farm in Wildersville in northeast Henderson County; the farm has been in his family since 1849, when Uriah Leonard purchased the land from the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, much of Slippery Hills Tree Farm's history can be traced back to Dr. Wilson's great-grandfather, Dr. Dan Bradfield, and his log cabin, which was built in 1870 and carefully renovated by Dr. Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dwayne Wilson assumed part ownership of the 134.5-acre property in 1957 and has added acreage to the tract of land since that time; the property was Tree Farm certified in 1985 and today has a total of 405 acres; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Dr. Wilson began improvement cutting at Slippery Hills, felling and pulling out the trees he needed to cut down for a logger to collect; today, he personally handles all aspects of forest management in conjunction with his area Tennessee Division of Forestry area forester, Jon Marden; and

WHEREAS, he has purchased two log trucks and uses them to haul pulpwood and sawtimber to the mills; over the last five years, he has cut and hauled approximately 60,000 board feet of sawtimber and 505 tons of pulpwood, and he uses approximately 100 backpack sprayers of herbicides each year to treat invasives and shade-tolerant mid-story stems; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson's four-step process for managing quality white oak and other oaks includes mechanically controlling shade-tolerant mid-story stems, chemically treating invasives and stumps of nondesirables that were previously removed, cutting low-vigor pulpwood stems, releasing high-quality crop trees, and providing for quality regeneration by thinning low-quality sawtimber; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. Dwayne Wilson has retired from his position as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Freed-Hardeman University, he will continue teaching at the university full time, which gives him time off in the summer to work on his many ongoing projects at Slippery Hills; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson is the treasurer of the 412 Corridor Forestry Association; he is active in regional forestry events and has held several field days at Slippery Hills Tree Farm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dwayne Wilson has worked tirelessly throughout his life to leave a much better stand of timber than the stand with which he started, and he is most worthy of recognition; 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 commend and congratulate Dr. Dwayne Wilson upon being named the 2019 Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.