

SENATE RESOLUTION 7030 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize Cloydland Farm of Wilson County,
a Tennessee Pioneer Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we 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 Ligon family of Wilson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families, and the Cloydland Farm, owned and operated by the family since the late-1700s, has been designated a Tennessee Pioneer Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms program was created in 1975 by the State through the Department of Agriculture; the program's purpose is to recognize and document the contributions of families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University assumed the responsibility of the program and now documents at least one Century Farm in all of Tennessee's ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, Pioneer Century Farms are those farms founded in or prior to the year 1796, when Tennessee became a state; and

WHEREAS, John and Margaret Scott Cloyd, originally from Scotland, founded Cloydland Farm in 1789 on 220 acres located fourteen miles east of Nashville, where they raised corn, cotton, wheat, hay, cattle, swine, horses, and sheep; and

WHEREAS, of the founders' seven children, John Cloyd became the second-generation owner of the family land; as such, he produced the same crops and livestock as his parents, but he also operated a tan yard. He married Sarah Wade, with whom he had nine children; and

WHEREAS, Dora T. Cloyd, an unmarried granddaughter of John and Margaret Cloyd, was next to inherit the farm, and in 1916, James Duncan Ligon, the great-grandson of the founders, acquired all of the original Cloydland acreage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ligon was a champion stock breeder for over six decades, raising Poland China swine, registered Polled Shorthorn cattle, and Hampshire sheep, as well as milo, small grains, hay, and purebred livestock; and

WHEREAS, James Duncan Ligon's son Herschel C. Ligon was next in line to inherit the family farm; prior to taking over the farm, he valiantly served his country in World War II, leading his company in on Utah Beach and commanding them through five campaigns in Europe. He retired at the rank of major; and

WHEREAS, Herschel Ligon's farming expertise was highly valued. He was the founder and president of Registered Farmers of America and Associated Consumers, and he testified twice before the Senate and House Agricultural committees; he was also featured in various media outlets, including the *Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, his sons, William "Bill" Ligon and James "Jim" Ligon, currently share ownership of Cloydland Farm and are involved in the farm work as well; the family reports that Cloydland Farm has the oldest Poland China hog herd in the United States and, likely, the oldest sheep flock in Tennessee; 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 the members of the Ligon family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Ligon family for their dedication to agriculture, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our rural communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor the Ligon family

members upon the Cloydland Farm being designated as a Tennessee Pioneer 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.