



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 595

By Representatives Casada, Sargent, Durham

and

Senators Johnson, Beavers, Bell, Bowling, Burks, Campfield, Crowe, Dickerson, Finney, Ford, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Haile, Harper, Henry, Hensley, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Massey, McNally, Niceley, Norris, Overbey, Southerland, Stevens, Summerville, Tate, Tracy, Watson, Yager and Mr. Speaker Ramsey

A RESOLUTION recognizing Bag End Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly 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 Smithson and McCall families of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Bag End Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1848, 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, in 1848, Nancy P. Smithson purchased a 125-acre farm in the Bethesda community from Dr. Samuel Henderson, but little else is known about the farm during this time; and

WHEREAS, by 1855, her son, Charles E. Smithson, had acquired the property; he was married to Jane Giles Smithson, and the couple had nine children; and

WHEREAS, in 1891, during the settlement of Charles E. Smithson's estate, his son, Charles T. Smithson acquired the land with the Henderson house on it; and

WHEREAS, after Charles T. died, his daughter, Alice Smithson McCall, obtained the acreage with the house; according to the family, the house at that time consisted of two log rooms separated by a dog-trot with a log kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Alice Smithson McCall was married to Andrew L. McCall, and they had one son, Herbert L. McCall; under her ownership, the farm produced beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, tobacco, wheat, and hay; and

WHEREAS, as time moved on, Herbert L. McCall became the next owner of the property; he was married to Mildred Creswell McCall, and they had two sons, Herbert and Gerald; eventually, Herbert's son acquired the land and then it passed to the current owner, Susan McCall Fisher; and

WHEREAS, today, the farm produces sheep, and some of the land is rented for cattle and tobacco; the white frame farm house is built over the original log cabin, and an old log smokehouse that was constructed in 1898 still stands; and

WHEREAS, the success of the 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 Smithson and McCall families, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owner Susan McCall Fisher, whose Bag End Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend Ms. Fisher and her family for 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.

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ADOPTED: February 6, 2014


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 10th day of February 2014


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR