

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1007

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Sam and Nina Whiteside and the Whiteside family upon Whiteside Farm being designated as a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of 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 Whiteside family of Maury County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families, and their farm, owned and operated by the family since 1881, has been designated a Tennessee 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, located in Maury County, the Whiteside Farm was started in 1881 when Robert Neely Whiteside purchased 375 acres off Whiteside Road in Hampshire; for more than a century, the farm has passed down through his descendants, including his son, Samuel Leander Whiteside; his grandson, William "James" Whiteside; and his great-grandson, Sam Whiteside, who currently runs the farm with his wife, Nina Whiteside; and

WHEREAS, Sam Whiteside grew up on the Whiteside Farm raising cows, hogs, chickens, and crops with his sisters, Martha Jane, Mary Neely, Jamie Sue, and Ella Ann, and was raised by his mother, Juanita Whiteside, who ran the farm after his father's death when he was six years old; and

WHEREAS, the salutatorian of his high school class, Sam Whiteside married Nina Grimes, and the couple had four children: Terry, Dionne, Paul, and Olivia; and

WHEREAS, Sam Whiteside built two tobacco sheds on the property in 1974 and 1982, and more than 600 acres of land have been added since the early 1970s; the old smokehouse still stands on the farm with a few hams hanging inside; and

WHEREAS, today, the family raises more than 300 beef cattle, and Paul Whiteside carries on the family legacy as a fifth-generation farmer at Whiteside Farm; 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 Whiteside 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 Whiteside 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Sam and Nina Whiteside and the Whiteside family upon Whiteside Farm being designated as a Tennessee 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.