

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 225

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the memory of Fred G. Laine upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

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

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was the late Fred G. Laine, who will be posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 2, 2013, for his life's work as an agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Laine was born in Wilson County in 1928 to Howard and Katherine Laine; and

WHEREAS, Fred Laine attended elementary and high school in Wilson County, and he graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and a Master of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation, Mr. Laine joined the United States Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Fred Laine had a distinguished military career, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after more than twenty years of dedicated service; he was awarded the Army Security Agency Certificate of Achievement, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and many others; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mr. Laine was asked to serve as a substitute agriculture teacher at Lebanon High School, which turned into a full-time position that lasted fifteen years; under his astute leadership, many of his students won awards on the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, during his teaching career, the Lebanon chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) won the Superior Chapter award; he had three students selected as State FFA President, two selected as State FFA Vice-President; and he was the first FFA Advisor in Wilson County to be eligible to take a team to compete in the National Soil Judging Contest in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Board of Education until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, two years after his passing, a number of Mr. Laine's FFA students established the Fred G. Laine Memorial Scholarship, which is administered by the Tennessee FFA Foundation; and

WHEREAS, each year, a deserving Wilson County FFA member has received a scholarship to help them continue their education in the field of agriculture; this scholarship is a loving tribute to the influence Fred Laine had on his students and a lasting tribute to the outstanding FFA students that never had the opportunity to know him; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Mr. Laine served as a dedicated Wilson County Soil Conservation District Supervisor from 1976 until his death in 1997; the Wilson County Soil Conservation District has given the Fred G. Laine Memorial Land Judging Award to the High Individual since 1997 to honor his contributions to education and conservation in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned McWherter appointed Mr. Laine an Honorary Page of the Tennessee House of Representatives and Colonel, Aide de Camp on the Governors Staff; he also received a Senate Joint Resolution to honor his memory from Senator Robert Rochelle and Representative Stratton Bone; and

WHEREAS, his innumerable accomplishments aside, he was also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Laine was perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Dorothy Feirick, whom he married in 1957; their children, Katherine (Kellie)

and Melissa; and their grandchildren, Kathleen Evins, Caroline Evins, Lindsey Laine Simpson, and Fred Maxwell Simpson; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor the late Fred Laine for his lifetime of farming achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Fred G. Laine upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable 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.