

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 736

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Dr. Cliff Ricketts,  
Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame  
inductee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of agriculture 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 farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual who hails from Mt. Juliet is Cliff Ricketts, a farmer, educator, inventor, and 2014 inductee into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ricketts was raised on a dairy farm in Mt. Juliet, educated in the public schools, graduated from Mt. Juliet High School, matriculated at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) for three years, and then transferred to the University of Tennessee (UT) in order to procure his certification to teach agricultural education; and

WHEREAS, anxious to apply his learning and gain a greater knowledge of agricultural science and business, Mr. Ricketts taught for six years at Mt. Juliet High School while simultaneously continuing studies at UT and earning his master's degree in education administration; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, he became a professor of agricultural education in MTSU's School of Agribusiness and Agri-science. He continued his pursuit of education, as well, and earned his doctorate degree in agricultural education from Ohio State University in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts's professional career focuses on development of alternative fuels for the future and on preparing students for agricultural teaching careers at the secondary level. He is justly credited with developing the first dual-credit grant in Tennessee, which allows high school students to receive college credit for courses through MTSU while still attending high school; and

WHEREAS, Cliff Ricketts is no stranger to awards and accolades, including: MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award, 1982 and 2006; Alpha Gamma Rho Agriculture Teacher of the Year, 1983 and 1986; MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award, 1988; and MTSU Career Achievement Award, 2013; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his academic career, Cliff Ricketts actively farms a 200-acre, 60-herd cow and calf operation in Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts is married to Nancy Baker Ricketts, and together, they have three children who are all involved in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who commit their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly honor Mr. Cliff Ricketts for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; 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 recognize the contributions that Dr. Cliff Ricketts has made to agriculture through his farming and through the classrooms in which he has taught agriculture education for many years, congratulate him on his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, and extend our best wishes to him for success in all his 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.