

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

By Lamberth

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a milestone in the history of the Volunteer State, namely the 100th anniversary of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; and

WHEREAS, since 1921, the volunteer members, leaders, agents, and employees of the Tennessee Farm Bureau have worked with purpose and conviction to improve the "general welfare, including economic, social, educational and political well-being" of this State's farmers, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, from its humble origins in the basement of the Maury County Courthouse, the Tennessee Farm Bureau has grown, prospered, and served Tennesseans to become the nation's largest state Farm Bureau, with more than 675,000 members; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and its members have timely and effectively led the way in adapting to changes in agriculture, including implementing new production practices, crop diversification, and new technology, to remain a vital part of this State's economic engine and rural life and excel as a devoted champion of farmers and their unique needs; and

WHEREAS, a key aspect of the Tennessee Farm Bureau's mission is lobbying and advocating on behalf of Tennessee's farmers and agricultural communities at the State and federal government levels and offering valuable assistance to its membership in other legal and regulatory areas; and

WHEREAS, the Farm Bureau provides various other services to its membership, including income tax assistance, recordkeeping, property protection reward programs, livestock

marketing, youth programs, women's activities, and educational programs relative to state and federal agricultural initiatives and farming methods; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farm Bureau also provides members access to the largest private health coverage group in the State through Farm Bureau Healthplans, which provide affordable, quality healthcare coverage to rural residents through a wide range of plans; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farm Bureau is also well known for the quality property and casualty, life products, and personal service offered to its members through Farm Bureau Insurance—Tennessee; the largest insurer of homes and automobiles in the State, Farm Bureau Insurance—Tennessee covers 1.2 million automobiles and almost 700,000 properties and is the largest writer of life insurance coverage in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, originally headquartered in Maury County because its first president, Mr. Joe Frank Porter, resided there, the Tennessee Farm Bureau remains an important part of the community today; after doing business for a time in the ancestral home of President James K. Polk, the organization relocated in 1968 to a newly built office building that has since been modified and expanded to include 144,000 square feet of office space and other facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farm Bureau has enjoyed the leadership of only eight presidents during its illustrious history, each of whom has resided in Columbia; Mr. Porter and his seven successors, including current president, Jeff Aiken, have established a legacy of faithful and visionary leadership in service of our State's farmers; and

WHEREAS, from only one employee with a dream, Mr. Porter, in 1921, the Tennessee Farm Bureau and its service companies have flourished to employ more than 1,300 public servants, including more than 750 workers in the Columbia home office and more than 500 full-time insurance agents and eighty-four income tax practitioners who work in almost 200 offices across the State; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farm Bureau is truly a foundational organization that exemplifies the highest principles of the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and extend to its grassroots members, leaders, agents, and employees our gratitude and our best wishes for serving Tennessee's rural communities for another 100 years.

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.