

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 790

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION recognizing Robert L. Sliger of Madisonville for his many years of dedicated service to the agricultural community and to this State.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those intrepid citizens who have contributed greatly to the arena of Tennessee's agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Sliger is one such individual who has, for more than forty-two years, committed his unwavering resolve and his dedicated pursuit of excellence to his various roles of service as a member of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Agricultural Extension Service, Mr. Sliger has rendered sterling service as a Unit Test Demonstration Agent, a County Agent, an Extension Leader, and as the Extension Director of Monroe County and lower East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Extension, Robert Sliger has brought his considerable expertise to bear in all of his endeavors, which have been many and varied. Throughout the course of his career, he has promoted and directed a beef bull leasing program dedicated to improving the genetics of beef cattle for thirty-seven years; used demonstrations to bring research-based information in the areas of dairy, beef, swine, forages, forestry, and field crops to farmers and to encourage the adoption of Extension recommended practices; organized and directed a popular series of meetings on equine husbandry, dubbed as the Horse College, for area horse owners; conducted the first trial in the United States about the potential of harvesting alfalfa by grazing with dairy cows; proved instrumental in the development of a dairy systems manual for the southeastern portion of the United States; been available to countless homeowners in need of Agriculture Extension information about a number of topics, including

landscaping, gardening, home fruit production, and any related problems; provided information to Extension clientele through a daily radio program for more than thirty-five years; and maintained a relationship with tobacco farmers by utilizing meetings, tours, demonstrations, radio programs, and farm visits to dispense Extension information on the production, harvesting, market preparation, and marketing of high quality burley tobacco; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sliger has also remained intimately involved with the Smoky Mountain Feeder Calf Association, one of the oldest continuous feeder calf marketing alliances in the State which has as an organization cooperatively marketed more than 400,000 head of feeder calves for the members during the past forty years; assisted producers in the collection, organization, analysis, and utilization of animal data for the purposes of improving the performance of beef and dairy cattle; held informational training meetings and provided instruction on the proper and safe use of pesticides; served as an avid promoter of soil and water conservation and the economic advantages of no-till farming practices; successfully directed the establishment of the first field of switchgrass for bio-mass production; and worked extensively in demonstrating the use of multiple forage species and combinations of forage species in efforts to provide year-round grazing programs for beef and dairy cattle, efforts which included various systems of controlled grazing as a means of forage crop harvesting and economical beef and dairy cattle nutrition; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his long and storied career, Robert Sliger has received local, statewide, and national recognition for his work and expertise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sliger's devotion to the agricultural world is eclipsed only by his devotion to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of this highest order; and

WHEREAS, this State has benefitted in no small order from the contributions of Robert Sliger, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize his exceptional public service and his devotion to providing the good people of Tennessee and these United States with safe and wholesome food; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and applaud Robert L. Sliger for his many contributions to the arena of agriculture, extending our deepest gratitude for his many years of commitment to the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service and offering our best wishes for his continued happiness and success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.