

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 830

By Cobb T

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend J.B. Napier and Napier Farm upon its designation as a Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our communities while bringing credit and acclaim to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is the Napier Farm of Maury County, owned by J.B. and Shirley Napier, which has been honored and designated as a Century Farm; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families who have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations and coping with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, located seven miles from Columbia, Napier Farm was established on January 21, 1887, when the property was purchased by William Clement Napier and Rebecca Burns Napier, who produced corn, wheat, oats, sugar cane, hay, vegetables, hogs, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, mules, and horses; and

WHEREAS, originally a 600-acre farm, Napier Farm had been a part of U. S. President James K. Polk's family farm, Westbrook, which included St. John's Church within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, William and Rebecca Napier's son, Elias Wills Napier, inherited the farm from his parents and continued to raise the same crops and livestock. Married three times, Elias Napier was the father of twelve children and passed the farm along to his son, John Bunch Napier, who became the third generation to own and operate Napier Farm; and

WHEREAS, John Bunch Napier had two children, daughter Mary Agnes Napier Berry, and son J. B. Napier, who would acquire the farm from his father in 1979. J.B. Napier continues to own and operate Napier Farm with his wife Shirley, residing on the farm in their current house for the last forty-six years where they raised their four children: Tim, Stan, Steve, and Millie; and

WHEREAS, today, Napier Farm contains 200 of its original acres that have been continuously owned by the Napier family since its establishment and boasts a twelve acre tobacco barn – one of the largest in Maury County; and

WHEREAS, Napier Farm has produced a wide variety of crops and livestock during its 100-plus years of operation, including beef and dairy cattle, horses, mules, goats, hogs, sheep, garden vegetables, commercial tomatoes, corn, wheat, soybeans, hay, and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, J. B. Napier, the current owner of Napier Farm, is a former member of the Tennessee General Assembly, having ably serving the good people of House District 64 representing Maury County as a member of the House of Representatives during the 93rd - 99th General Assemblies from 1982 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the House of Representatives, former Representative Napier ably served as Vice Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, Chairman of the House Conservation Committee, and key member of both the House Commerce Committee and the House Committee on Calendar and Rules; and ;

WHEREAS, a successful businessman and farmer, J.B. Napier is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, a veteran of the Korean Conflict, having served honorably with the United States Marine Corps, and was formerly employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, a former member of the Maury County Commission from 1972 to 1982 and a past president of the Central Basin Angus Association, Mr. Napier has also been active in soil conservation efforts and is a former chairman of the Maury County Soil Conservation District, served as president of the Tennessee Association of Soil Conservation Districts from 1980 to 1984, and is both a past board member and former council member of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts; and

WHEREAS, J.B. Napier and his family also operated Pestco – a highly successful pest control business with offices throughout Middle and East Tennessee; earning the respect of his peers within the industry, Mr. Napier served as president of the Tennessee Pest Control Association and was a former member of the Tennessee Pest Control Licensing Board; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-five year member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Mr. Napier has served on the Board of Trustees for Maury Regional Medical Center and is a member of the Farm Bureau, the American Legion, the Maury County Chamber of Commerce, Maury Alliance, the Shriners, and the Masons; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family and committed to family values, J.B. Napier enjoys the loving support of his beloved wife, Shirley, who served for twenty-three years as Clerk and Master at the Maury County Courthouse; their four devoted children, Tim, Stan, Steve, and Millie; and eight treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud J.B. and Shirley Napier and the entire Napier family for their dedication to farming, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our communities and the State of Tennessee; 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 congratulate and commend J.B. Napier and Napier Farm upon its receipt of the Century Farm Award in honor of its contributions to the agribusiness industry in Tennessee and extend to the Napier family our best wishes for every future success.

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