

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 936

By Butt

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Pugh family farm in Maury County upon its designation as a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Pugh family of Maury County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families, and their farm, owned and operated by the family since the late 1800s, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms program was created in 1975 by the State through the Department of Agriculture; the program's purpose is to recognize and document the contributions of families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University assumed the responsibility of the program and now documents at least one Century Farm in all of Tennessee's ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, located in Maury County, the Pugh family farm was established at the head of Dry Fork Creek near the Gum Spring in Hampshire by Andrew Jackson "Jack" Pugh; the current 133-acre tract is thought to have been part of a land grant he purchased in 1846; and

WHEREAS, Jack Pugh leased the farm for crop production and the raising of livestock, and in 1889, he sold it to his youngest son, Milton Pugh, upon whose death the farm was sold

for the benefit of his heirs, with his son English Perkins Pugh emerging as the highest bidder;
and

WHEREAS, English Pugh, along with his wife, Lou Annie King, and his daughters, Mary Allene and Margaret Evelyn, rendered the land a self-sufficient farm, raising cattle and hogs, growing tobacco, corn, and pumpkins, and cutting hay; for a time in the 1950s, a sawmill moved to the farm, and the owner bought timber from the Pugh family as well as several of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Mary Allene became the owner of the farm in the 1970s after the death of her father; along with her husband, John Turner Duncan, Sr., and only son, John Turner "J.T." Duncan, Jr., she raised cattle, grew tobacco and corn, and cut hay, and there was always a garden full of fresh vegetables growing in the spring and summer; and

WHEREAS, J.T. Duncan and his wife, Patricia Hines, had three daughters, Cindy, Cher, and Jeana; the family lived in the English Pugh house in the late 1970s and grew tobacco and corn, cut hay, and raised cattle; Mr. Duncan had cattle and one last tobacco crop around 1996; and

WHEREAS, J.T. Duncan became the official owner of the family farm upon the death of his father in July 1999; when the time came that the family was no longer able to farm the land, the farm was leased to a neighboring farmer as pasture land for cattle and hay; and

WHEREAS, today, the farm is operated by J.T. Duncan's daughter Cindy and her husband, Lee Grimmitt, and sons, Seth and Drew Grimmitt, who are the seventh generation of the Pugh line to work the farm; they raise cattle, grow wheat, and cut hay; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Pugh family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Pugh family for their dedication to agriculture, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our rural communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Pugh family upon the designation of the Pugh family farm in Maury County as a Tennessee Century Farm, commend them for their dedication to agriculture, and extend our best wishes to them 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.