

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION recognizing Grand Junction as the “Bird Dog and Field Trial Capital of the World.”

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those of Tennessee’s cities and towns which have gained worldwide renown; and

WHEREAS, Grand Junction, Tennessee, is one such community which has stood as the center of the bird dog and field trial world for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, West Tennessee has long been hallowed ground to those who hunt quail and waterfowl, and the necessity of good bird dogs, pointers, and retrievers soon gave rise to good-natured competition; and

WHEREAS, the first field trial was held outside of Grand Junction in 1874, and the National Field Trial Championship Association was organized by sportsmen from West Tennessee soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the winner of the first field trial was an English Setter named Count Gladstone IV, who was handled by James M. Avent of Avent Kennels, located just outside of Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Avent went on to handle eight National Championship winners, a feat matched only by Ches Harris and exceeded by Clyde Morton, who won eleven national titles; and

WHEREAS, it was in 1915 that the National Championship was relocated, permanently, to the Ames Plantation in Grand Junction. The Ames Plantation was twenty thousand acres of land purchased by renowned hunting enthusiast Hobart Ames, who stood for thirty years as the president of the National Field Trial Association and established the standards for judging the competitions, standards now known as the Amesian Standard; and

WHEREAS, Grand Junction is also where the Bird Dog Federation chose to locate the National Bird Dog Museum, which also contains the Field Trial Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Grand Junction is the heart and home of the bird dog and field trial community, and it is wholly fitting that this body recognizes its preeminent place in national bird dog and field trial history; 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 join with bird dog and field trial enthusiasts everywhere in recognizing Grand Junction as the “Bird Dog and Field Trial Capital of the World.”

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