

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Elton and Patricia Coley upon being named the 2012 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such couple dedicated to conservationism is Elton and Patricia Coley, the owners and operators of the Indian Creek Tree Farm in Hardin County. The Coleys were recently named the 2012 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, this annual award recognizes tree farmers who perform an outstanding service in the area of forest and resource management and promote the tree farm program through action and example; and

WHEREAS, the more than 3,000-acre property has maintained the highest standards of the Quality Deer Management (QDM) guidelines for the past fifteen years, providing eighty acres of wildlife openings and food plots that are amply replenished with winter and summer food sources; and

WHEREAS, with timber management practices that include thinning, prescribed burning, mid-rotation release, and fertilization, this sprawling sanctuary offers an abundance of mature upland hardwood, hardwood and pine plantations, and Stream Management Zones (SMZ); and

WHEREAS, the gentle current of Indian Creek flowing through the property serves a variety of recreational activities, such as fishing, canoeing, and wildlife observation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coley, a consulting forester, and Mrs. Coley, a retired school teacher, have transformed their property into an outdoor classroom for both children and adults to explore the rich wildlife of this beautiful State; and

WHEREAS, for the past twelve years, they have sponsored a youth deer hunt that offers children in Hardin County a day of deer hunting, target practice, field dressing deer, and identifying animal tracks with a mentor from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA); and

WHEREAS, in addition to this program, the Coleys have allowed local 4-H groups to conduct timber and wildlife studies on the farm and have invited as many as three local youth along with a guide to visit the property and participate in the Hardin County St. Jude Hunting for a Cure turkey hunt every spring; and

WHEREAS, Elton and Patricia Coley are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2012 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, and their commitment to responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; 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 congratulate Elton and Patricia Coley upon being named the 2012 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee and thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

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