

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 281

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dupree Farms at  
Black Creek 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 Dupree family of Crockett County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families, and Dupree Farms, owned and operated by the family since 1917, 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 specific 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 two miles from Maury City on the corner of Hicks Lane and Jennings Road, Dupree Farms was established on December 17, 1917, by Lafayette and Dora Elizabeth Winston Dupree; and

WHEREAS, the son of former slaves, Lafayette Dupree was a teacher and farmer in the community; Dora Dupree attended Lane College, a Historically Black College and University, and was a teacher and a homemaker; and

WHEREAS, well respected in the community as people who kept their word, Lafayette and Dora Dupree were just in their early twenties when they purchased the forty acres of land from J.D. Riddick, the local banker at Planters Bank, and his wife; and

WHEREAS, upon purchase of the farm, Mr. Dupree farmed the tillable land while he continued to clear other areas of trees and brush for row crops and livestock; during his lifetime, the farm produced cotton, corn, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette Dupree worked his land until his death on March 21, 1924, from pneumonia; upon his death, the farm was bequeathed to his wife, Dora, and his six children, Winston, Robert, Montell, Mary, Martha, and William. Mrs. Dupree maintained the farm until her death in 1978, when the farm was passed on to the children; and

WHEREAS, today the Dupree Farm is operated and maintained by Lafayette and Dora Dupree's grandson, Eric Dupree; he and his wife, Robin, live on the farm, where they raise corn, soybeans, and wheat, and are active in the agricultural community; and

WHEREAS, generations of Duprees will commemorate the farm's centennial anniversary on September 23, 2017, and the entire Dupree family is proud to proclaim, "100 years of farming and still counting"; 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 Dupree family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize the excellent work of the Tennessee Century Farms Program, and we congratulate the owners of Dupree Farms upon its recognition as such; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members of the Dupree family upon the

designation of Dupree Farms at Black Creek 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.