

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 735

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor James C. Johnson upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is James C. Johnson, who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his life's work as a farmer and agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, born in 1895 in Albany, Kentucky, Mr. Johnson attended Berea College in Kentucky and Milligan College in Elizabethton prior to embarking upon his first career as a school teacher. He taught in Pickett and Trousdale Counties before moving to Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, in 1919, he married Maggie Piercey of the Centerville community, and to this marriage was born the couple's only child, Margaret. The family moved to the Taylorsville community when Margaret was young, and Mr. Johnson began teaching at Taylorsville School; and

WHEREAS, it was in Taylorsville that James Johnson began farming, growing tobacco and vegetables, and raising a few head of cattle. As livestock farming began to grow in popularity in Middle Tennessee during the 1930s, Mr. Johnson recognized a need for area

farmers to buy and sell their animals locally and, with the help of a business partner, opened the Wilson County Livestock Market in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, capitalizing upon the success and popularity of the Wilson County Livestock Market, James Johnson proceeded to open similar ventures in Hartsville, Lafayette, and Cookeville. Though he eventually sold his shares of the markets, the Lebanon market held a special place in his heart, and he continued to visit it regularly until his death in 1990; and

WHEREAS, a man dedicated to the farming and agricultural community, James Johnson worked for Commerce Union Bank in the 1950s and 1960s as a farm appraiser and was an active supporter of 4-H cattle shows. One of his proudest moments was when his grandson showed a grand champion steer at the Wilson County 4-H Livestock Show; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson also co-founded, with partner Billy Hobbs, the Johnson and Hobbs Real Estate firm, which specialized in farm properties and became one of Lebanon's leading real estate auction firms in the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, he was an owner of the Wilson County Fairgrounds and served as the President of the Wilson County Fair Association for a number of years in the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, James Johnson was also dedicated to serving the civic needs of the Lebanon community, serving as a Wilson County Trustee between 1944 and 1946 and as an Alderman for the City of Lebanon in the early 1960s. He also rendered sterling service as a valued member of the Lebanon Lions Club, Wilson County Sportsman's Club, and the College Street Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor Mr. Johnson for his lifetime of achievements; 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 honor James C. Johnson upon his induction into the Wilson

County Agricultural Hall of Fame, recognizing his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

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