

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1170

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the late Nelson Steed upon his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

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

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was the late Nelson Steed, who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Nelson Steed was born in Shop Springs, the son of a sharecropper, and moved with his family several times before they settled in LaGuardo, off Cairo Bend, during his freshman year of high school; and

WHEREAS, during his high school years, Nelson Steed was greatly influenced by his agriculture teacher, Buck Evans, who instilled in him a love for farming that saw young Nelson find ways to cultivate whatever crops he could to bring in some income to the family; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation from Lebanon High School, Mr. Steed was joined in holy matrimony with his beloved Emmie Lou and enlisted in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the young couple moved to the Grave-Wright farm, a property that had been in Emmie Lou's family; this move also marked the beginning of Mr. Steed's venture into the construction business, where he specialized in building custom homes; and

WHEREAS, despite his career in the construction industry, Nelson Steed never strayed far from his agricultural roots and engaged in truck farming while also adding two children, Connie Jo Massey and Donnie Steed, to their happy family; and

WHEREAS, soon after, the Steeds began to raise hogs while also running the construction business and raising their two children on the family farm; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Mr. Steed became a charter member of the Wilson County Promotion, which was initially established to host an agricultural fair; his involvement was instrumental, as he served as vice president for over thirty years and played a pivotal role in transforming the Wilson County Fair into the celebrated event it is today; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Nelson Steed entered the banking industry and eventually became chairman of Cedar Stone Bank, where he was a staunch advocate for farmers, recognizing the importance of supporting their needs in a rapidly changing agricultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement, Mr. Steed expanded his farming operation significantly with the support of his family; his work culminated in the development of a USDA meat processing facility, marking another milestone in his remarkable career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steed's legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who continue to operate the family farm and uphold the values he cherished; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor the memory of the late Nelson Steed for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the late Nelson Steed upon

his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his many 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.