

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1364

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to recognize Oakhill Farm in Obion County, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our rural communities while providing food and fiber for Tennessee and beyond; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is the Oakhill Farm in Obion County, which is still owned by members of the Laster and Hundley family today and has been designated a Century Farm; and

WHEREAS, the present owner of Oakhill Farm, Johnny Hundley, was raised on the farm and has lived there for seventy-seven years, longer than any of its previous owners; and

WHEREAS, Oakhill Farm was founded by Virgil Henry Laster, Mr. Hundley's grandfather, in 1918; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 1939, one of the sharecropper's sons, Herman Faye Hundley, married Mary LaNelle, one of Virgil and Docia Laster's daughters; after Mr. Hundley's return home from World War II, the couple began farming the land, eventually purchasing a total of nearly 106 acres from Mr. Laster or his heirs; and

WHEREAS, their son, Johnny Hundley, grew up working on the farm and was an active member of the 4-H Club at Rives and Obion Central and a member and officer of FFA; and

WHEREAS, shortly after Johnny Hundley graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with an agriculture education degree, Mr. Herman Hundley asked him to become a partner in the operation of the farm, which they named Oakhill Farm; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Johnny Hundley and his wife, Treesa, purchased 16.7 acres of the 1918 Laster farm from his aunt, Carolyn Laster Jones, and her husband, Wade Jones; and

WHEREAS, then in 1976, they purchased 1.5 acres from Mr. Hundley's parents to build a house in which to raise their daughters, Michelle H. Palk and Jennifer H. Gann; the Hundley sisters participated in all aspects of farm life, including 4-H Club membership and showing hogs at the Obion County Fair, before attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, upon Herman Hundley's death in 1992, Johnny Hundley inherited Oakhill Farm, where he continued to raise chickens, geese, corn, oats, wheat, soybeans, milo, sunflowers, and hay; since the early 2000s, eighty acres of the restored 120-acre farm have been leased to local farmers, and the production of crops on the land continues; and

WHEREAS, still standing at Oakhill Farm are three buildings that serve as reminders of the farm's origins and history: a 1930s chicken house, a Grade-A dairy barn built in 1957, and Herman and LaNelle Hundley's original home, built in 1952 and now referred to as "The Cabin"; and

WHEREAS, today, Johnny Hundley's daughter, Michelle, her husband, Russell Palk, and their sons, Conner and Cooper, enjoy spending time on the farm and helping with upkeep of the property, especially the preparation of the deer stands for hunting season; and

WHEREAS, three living generations of the Hundley family take great pride in Oakhill Farm and its agricultural legacy, just as they appreciate the two generations who came before them; 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 recognize Obion County's Tennessee Century Farm, Oakhill Farm, honor its owner, Johnny Hundley, for his contributions to agriculture and Tennessee's history and heritage, and extend to the entire Hundley family our best wishes 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.