

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 299

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the late Dave William Smith Sr. upon his 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 this General Assembly should 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 Dave William Smith Sr., who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 7, 2015, for his legacy as a farmer and community leader; and

WHEREAS, born in Wilson County in 1906 to Winfield and Lenna Padget Smith, Dave William Smith was the oldest of eight children raised on the family farm on Coles Ferry Pike, where they raised dairy and beef cattle, grew corn and other crops, and broke and sold mules. He attended Oakland Elementary School as a child; and

WHEREAS, after marrying Elsie Margaret Ivy in 1940, Mr. Smith bought 120 acres of land on Horn Springs Road from his father-in-law, Mitchel Ivy, where the couple built a home and began a farm; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong farmer, Dave Smith raised beef and dairy cattle, hogs, and tobacco, and he also ran a large sheep operation for many years. At the peak of his farming endeavors, he farmed over 450 acres, and he rode a gaited horse to check his sheep and cattle and had a mule to plow his garden; and

WHEREAS, for many years, he worked for his brother, Fisher Smith, at the Wilson County Livestock Market and graded tobacco at Hancock Barns in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, the matriarch of the farm, Elsie Margaret Smith, was a teacher at Oakland and Carroll Elementary schools, was active in the Oakland Home Demonstration Club, and taught her daughters to sew, cook, can from the garden, and play the piano. She also won first place in the statewide Make It From Wool sewing contest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Smith enjoyed helping their children with 4-H projects and served as leaders for the Oakland 4-H Club and Wilson County 4-H clubs, supported the 4-H clubs of Laguardo and Oakland schools, and threw an annual barbeque for the 4-H members and their families to celebrate that year's achievements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith served as the president of the Wilson County 4-H Leaders Association and, in 1965, he received the Florence Lester Memorial Award as an outstanding 4-H leader; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Dave Smith was a member of the Ruritan Club and served on the Wilson County Board of Education from 1964 to 1971, serving as chair of the board for part of his tenure, and also serving during the desegregation of the Wilson County school system; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Wilson County agricultural community, he served on the board of directors of the Wilson County Farm Bureau from 1960 to 1984, and again from 1987 to 1988, and he was a member of the Wilson County Livestock Association and the Wilson County Sportsman Club; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual individual, Dave Smith was a member of New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he served as deacon, elder, Sunday school teacher, and Sunday school superintendent; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Smith shared the loving companionship of Elsie Margaret Smith for more than forty-five years, and was the proud father of Dave William Smith Jr., Ruby Lynn Steele, Margaret Ivy Hyde, and Mary Beth Malone, the proud grandfather of six grandchildren, and the proud great-grandfather of thirteen great-grandchildren; 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, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor the late Dave Smith for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the late Dave William Smith Sr. on the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect 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.