



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 207

By Senator Beavers

and

Representatives Elam, Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the memory of William H. Coley 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 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 was the late William H. Coley, who was recently posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his life's work as an agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, a native of Westmoreland, Bill Coley was the second of two sons born to O.M. and Maude Coley and was a 1944 graduate of Westmoreland High School and, during his high school career, he served as the Senior Class President, was involved in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), and was awarded the Middle Tennessee Star Farmer Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coley enrolled in the University of Tennessee (UT) College of Agriculture in 1945 and, during his time at UT, he was active in the AG Club, served as treasurer of the All Students Club, and was a member of the Scarabbean Society; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from UT in 1948, Mr. Coley was hired as the vocational agriculture teacher at McMinnville High School, where he met his future wife, Celia DePriest; and

WHEREAS, after two years of teaching at the high school, Mr. Coley was drafted into the United States Army and served with valor and distinction in the 45th Infantry Division during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, upon the conclusion of his military service in 1952, Bill Coley served with acumen and alacrity as the vocational agriculture teacher at Mt. Juliet High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mr. Coley was joined in holy matrimony with Celia DePriest; their blessed union produced two children, Catherine Coley Melear and John William Coley, and four grandchildren, and Mr. and Mrs. Coley lived the rest of their lives in Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Mt. Juliet, Bill Coley enjoyed working with the students in their FFA activities, including public speaking, leadership development, agriculture skills training, dairy and livestock judging, and attendance at numerous camps, state and national conventions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coley's students were regular exhibitors at county and state fairs and won numerous FFA contests, degrees, and officer elections; and

WHEREAS, he left his teaching position at the high school in 1965 when he was appointed as Area Supervisor for Vocational Education by the Tennessee Department of Education and, for the remainder of his estimable career, he remained involved with student activities, particularly through the FFA; and

WHEREAS, upon his much-deserved retirement in 1990, Bill Coley continued his agricultural involvement by volunteering his time in support of local FFA chapters and their various activities and events; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coley graciously donated his time and energies to numerous organizations, including as Director of the Wilson County Farm Bureau, President of the Mt. Juliet Kiwanis Club, member of the County Teachers Association and Retired Teachers Association, and Commissioner of the West Wilson Utility District; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife were active and devout members of Cloyd's Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which Mr. Coley served as an Elder, Trustee, and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, in his free time, Mr. Coley enjoyed gardening; tending to his hens; sports, particularly at UT and Mt. Juliet High School; spending time with his grandchildren; and traveling with family and friends; 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 the late Bill Coley for his lifetime of farming achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of William H. Coley upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

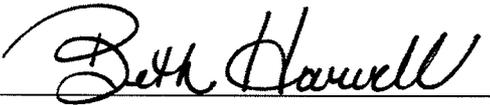
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: April 27, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9th day of May 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR