



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 731

By Representatives Moore, Shepard

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Edward and Nancy Polk upon being named the 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such couple dedicated to conservationism is Edward and Nancy Polk, the owners and operators of the Polk Tree Farm in Dickson County. The Polks were recently named the 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, this annual award recognizes tree farmers who perform an outstanding service in the area of forest and resource management and promote the tree farm program through action and example; and

WHEREAS, raised on a 220-acre farm in Bellevue in the 1950s, Ed Polk has long nurtured a reverence and appreciation for the land and its offerings; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Bellevue High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering from Vanderbilt University, an education which would greatly serve him in his extensive career in conservation; and

WHEREAS, devoting much of his time and energy to environmental research and management, Mr. Polk worked for three years as a research associate studying thermal pollution at power plants and seven years with the State of Tennessee Department of Public Health in the Division of Stream Pollution Control, during which time he wrote and published water quality management plans for various hydrologic basins of the State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Polk later practiced with Environmental Management Planning and Engineering (EMPE, Inc.), of which he eventually served as president and chairman of the board; and he eventually led the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program; and

WHEREAS, with the help of his wife and partner, Nancy Carolyn Gasser Polk, he purchased a 205-acre farm in the Slayden community of Dickson County and began by remodeling the nineteenth-century log home and improving the quail habitat on the property. He later improved the deer habitat in response to the increased deer population and began a food plot program; and

WHEREAS, when the quail population began to wane in the 1980s, the Polks wished to encourage forest growth and planted 120 Virginia Pine seedlings, after which they became heavily involved in reforestation, an interest they maintained by planting tree seedlings for fourteen consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, with the acquisition of 116 acres in 2003, the Polks enlisted the help of the Tennessee Division of Forestry Restoration Initiative Program (TRIP) to plant 22,000 pines on the steep and briar-riddled acreage; additionally, the Polks, their relatives, and friends have personally planted 9,900 trees, most of which were purchased from the Tennessee State Nursery as bare root seedlings; and

WHEREAS, the Polks' vigilance and dedication to the cause have sustained them throughout every challenge, including the intense process of clearing weeds and briars, applying herbicide to kill competing vegetation, installing the grid, planting the trees by hand

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with a Dibble bar, constructing tree shelters, and constant releasing and mowing for several years until the trees are firmly established; and

WHEREAS, Ed Polk is involved in many natural resource organizations, serving as president of the Dickson County Forestry Association; a member of the American Chestnut Foundation, the American Tree Farm System, and the Quality Deer Management Association, and the only Tennessee attendee of the Walnut Council's recent annual symposium in Madison, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Ed and Nancy Polk will be celebrating their many successes and their most recent victory with their son; and

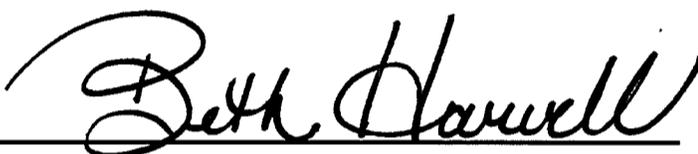
WHEREAS, Ed and Nancy Polk are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, and their commitment to responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Ed and Nancy Polk upon being named the 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee and thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

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: MARCH 8, 2012


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12th day of March 2012


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR