

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 529

WHEREAS, November 12, 2006, was the centennial of the employment of William C. Stallings as the first educator in the nation to serve a single county in the role of cooperative extension agent; the county in which he was hired was Smith County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, The creation of the position of county cooperative extension agent came about from the farming demonstrations conducted in 1903 by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, United States Department of Agriculture special agent for the promotion of agriculture in the South, and by Walter C. Porter on the Porter Farm in Kaufman County, Texas; through their expertise and communication skills, the men were highly effective in teaching fellow citizens how to improve their farming techniques, and thus, their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Their achievements and similar successes of that era led to the Federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which authorized the establishment of a national Cooperative Extension System funded through a partnership between federal, state, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, The system includes the Texas Cooperative Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program of Prairie View A&M University, both part of The Texas A&M University System; the outreach educators and trained volunteers of these organizations work together to serve all 254 counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The educators include county extension agents and extension specialists who develop unbiased educational and technology-transfer programs in response to various issues in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and Youth Development, family and consumer sciences, and community resources and economic development; and

WHEREAS, The programs they develop are founded on the scientific research of higher education institutions and agencies and provide knowledge and practical lessons for self-improvement and community problem-solving; and

WHEREAS, The extension agency programs are as important and effective now as in their early beginnings, as extension educators and those who support them have remained committed to their purpose, which is the delivery of quality, relevant educational programs to enhance the quality of life and meet the needs of the people of the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the personnel of the Texas Cooperative Extension and the Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program for their substantial contributions to the advancement and well-being of this state; and, be it further

S.R. No. 529

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in their honor and as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 21, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate