

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

**WHEREAS**, The prosperity of the Lone Star State has been greatly influenced by family farming and ranching, and the Justiss family of Morris County have been officially recognized as heirs to this proud tradition with the acceptance of the Justiss Ranch into the state's Family Land Heritage Program in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, this program honors farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for a century or more; established in 1868, the Justiss Ranch is currently owned and operated by Sheila Justiss and Madron Justiss Hartley; and

**WHEREAS**, John W. Justiss was a native of Georgia who traveled to California by way of Panama, took part in the Gold Rush, and eventually settled in Texas; in 1868, he and his wife, Rachel Yancey Justiss, bought 146 acres in northeast Texas, where they raised cattle and sheep as well as sweet potatoes, corn, and sugar cane; and

**WHEREAS**, The land was handed down to John and Rachel's son Joe Justiss, who raised 11 children there with his wife, Willie Johnson Justiss; the family grew sweet potatoes, and Justiss Yams became a popular brand throughout East Texas and as far afield as California; Joe's son Lloyd Justiss inherited the farm and went on to become president of the Texas Sweet Potato Growers Association; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 20th century, Adron Justiss, Lloyd's sixth son, turned the land into a successful cattle ranch, and he and

his wife, Mae Copeland Justiss, were active in the Northeast Texas Hereford Association; today, the ranch is overseen by Adron's daughters Sheila and Madron, who have continued to skillfully manage the family's herd of Registered Polled Herefords and Registered Black Salers; and

**WHEREAS**, In preserving their property as a working ranch, Ms. Justiss and Ms. Hartley are making their own contribution to their family's legacy, and it is indeed fitting that they be honored for their outstanding stewardship; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby congratulate Sheila Justiss and Madron Justiss Hartley on the induction of the Justiss Ranch into the Texas Department of Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Ms. Justiss and Ms. Hartley as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Hughes

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 28, 2019.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate