

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1985 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 8
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 414

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT, THE FATHER OF SOIL CONSERVATION, AND COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.

Whereas, Hugh Hammond Bennett was born on April 14, 1881, near Wadesboro, North Carolina; died on July 7, 1960; and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

Whereas, Hugh Hammond Bennett was born on a farm in an area with severe soil erosion problems and was therefore keenly aware in his childhood and throughout his life of the importance of soil conservation; and

Whereas, 50 years ago North Carolina and the nation were suffering the devastating effects of unchecked erosion, and the landscape of our State and the Southeast was scarred by deep gullies, severely eroded fields, and muddy streams; and

Whereas, Hugh Hammond Bennett led the effort to create a national agency to deal with the erosion problem; and

Whereas, Hugh Hammond Bennett's efforts came to fruition with the enactment of the Soil Conservation Service Act in 1935 and the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, of which Hugh Hammond Bennett was the first chief; and

Whereas, Hugh Hammond Bennett is recognized as the father and spokesman of the soil conservation movement, both in America and worldwide; and

Whereas, April 27, 1985, marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service and the national soil conservation movement in the United States; and

Whereas, North Carolina's 94 Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been strong leaders in promoting voluntary application of soil and water conservation measures; and

Whereas, North Carolina's soil and water resources need continuing protection from soil loss through erosion; and

Whereas, State and federal agencies, groups, and individuals need to renew their commitment to work together to protect our valuable soil and water resources; and

Whereas, the challenge as we begin the next half century of conservation is to motivate voluntary application of soil and water conservation measures through public awareness and education, demonstrations, and technical assistance;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

Section 1. The North Carolina General Assembly honors the life and memory of Hugh Hammond Bennett, the father of soil conservation, by commemorating April 27, 1985, as the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 and the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The General Assembly expresses its respect and admiration for Hugh Hammond Bennett's work in the field of soil conservation and expresses its hope that Hugh Hammond Bennett's legacy of soil conservation be nourished and supported by national, State, and local programs that provide technical and financial assistance to land users to help them solve soil conservation problems.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the family of Hugh Hammond Bennett and to the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 29th day of April, 1985.