

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

18103697D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 267

Offered February 13, 2018

Commending Robert Mills, Jr.

Patrons—Adams, L.R., Edmunds, Kilgore, Marshall, Poindexter and Wright; Senators: Ruff and Stanley

WHEREAS, Robert Mills, Jr., a first-generation farmer in Pittsylvania County, won the 2017 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for his innovative methods and leadership in the farming profession; and

WHEREAS, first presented in 1990, the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award recognizes excellence in the agriculture industry; Robert Mills was selected from 10 finalists, and he is only the third overall winner from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a native of Danville, Robert Mills was inspired to become a farmer at a young age and began growing his first garden at age 13; he went to work for a nearby commercial farm before buying his own farm in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Robert Mills began farming full-time in 2001, and by 2017 Briar View Farm in Callands had grown to more than 2,200 acres with a diversified tobacco operation, a herd of several hundred beef cattle, and thousands of pullet chickens; he also grows winter wheat, pearl millet, and hay; and

WHEREAS, calling upon his expertise as a conservation specialist, Robert Mills has prioritized environmentally sustainable farming practices, including the use of cover crops, field borders, grassed waterways, terraces, and stream crossings; and

WHEREAS, a well-known leader in farming in the Commonwealth, Robert Mills is a member of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Board of Visitors, the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, and the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, and the president of the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; he was named the 2017 Virginia Farmer of the Year by the Virginia Cooperative Extension; and

WHEREAS, Robert Mills has succeeded in his endeavors with the love and support of his family and friends, including his wife, Cynthia; their two sons, Logan and Holden; and his parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Robert Mills, Jr., on winning the 2017 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert Mills, Jr., for his impressive achievements and best wishes for the future.

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