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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Celebrate National Christmas Tree Week**

Chesterfield, Mo. – (December 4, 2011) - While Real Christmas Trees have been around for more than 500 years, this year marks the first nationwide celebration of this iconic holiday symbol.

On Nov. 30, the U.S. Senate passed S. Res. 341, a resolution declaring the first full week of December as National Christmas Tree Week. The resolution was co-sponsored by senators from California, Maine, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Washington and passed unanimously.

As noted in the resolution:

- Christmas Trees are grown in all 50 states.
- There are close to 15,000 farms growing Christmas Trees in the United States.
- Approximately 100,000 people are employed full or part-time in the Christmas Tree industry.
- Growing Christmas Trees preserves green space and family owned farms, provides habitats for wildlife and sequesters carbon dioxide.

“Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Senate ... encourages the celebration of Christmas Trees during that week, reaffirms the environmental benefits of Christmas Tree farms and recycled Christmas Trees, and celebrates the joy Christmas Trees bring to families across the United States,” the resolution stated.

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Fresh, farm-grown Christmas Trees may be purchased from retail lots, Choose & Cut farms, garden centers and even online. This year, approximately 25-30 million Real Christmas Trees are expected to be purchased in the United States.

The tradition of a decorated Real Tree can be traced back to Riga, Latvia, in 1510. While decorating styles have changed since then, the tradition of a Real Tree as the centerpiece of holiday celebrations has not. Today, there are close to 350 million Real Christmas Trees growing on farms in the U.S. alone, all planted by farmers.

For information on Real Trees and to find a farm/lot near you, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org).

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