

By: Representative Watson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE HICKS FUNERAL HOME FOR EIGHTY-NINE
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOPE COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

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EIGHTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOPE
COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Roland A. Hicks, Jr., was born in Norphlet, Arkansas, graduated from high school there, and moved to Hope, Arkansas, in 1932; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks attended Gupton-Jones School of Embalming in Nashville, Tennessee and when Mr. Hicks graduated from embalming school, Grant Davenport and Professor J. W. Walker, the grandfather of attorney John Walker, were there and asked Mr. Hicks to come to Hope, Arkansas, to open a Black funeral home; and

WHEREAS, Rufus Herndon of Herndon Funeral Home gave Mr. Hicks equipment to get him started in the business when he first returned to Hope as there was a building behind the Herndon Funeral Home where Black persons were taken to be embalmed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks opened his funeral home March 9, 1934, and the first location was in a strip mall; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Hicks Funeral Home, the location was also home to a doctor's office, a typesetter, a Black theater, and a restaurant;



and

WHEREAS, the Hicks Funeral Home moved locations twice and is currently located at 407 South Hazel Street, Hope, Arkansas, where the business has been for the last fifty (50) years; and

WHEREAS, at the time, Black persons, who were paying insurance plans for burial, were told by Mr. Herndon to use the services of the Hicks Funeral Home and Mr. Hicks would travel the state to embalming seminars as he was considered the best in the state at that time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks would get meat, vegetables, fruit, and milk in exchange for down payments on the burial insurance plan and he was proud to come home with whatever his community members could afford as a down payment; and

WHEREAS, from those meager down payments to what has been built at Hicks Funeral Home, the services provided to the community are a source of pride for the owners and employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks became a successful businessman and left his legacy to his family and the city of Hope; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, Hicks Funeral Homes will celebrate eighty-nine (89) years of providing service to Hope and surrounding areas and the legacy of Mr. Hicks now continues through the fourth generation of licensed funeral directors at the funeral home,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize Mr. Roland Hicks and the Hicks Funeral Home for eighty-nine (89) years of service to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be

provided to the family of Mr. Roland Hicks by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.