

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023

HR 1025

4  
5 By: Representative Watson

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

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

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12 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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29 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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

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