

## House Resolution 73

By: Representatives Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup> and Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Charlie Edward Matthews; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Charlie Edward Matthews on December 23, 2020; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Charlie Edward Matthews was born on March 23, 1945, in Columbus, Georgia,  
5 a beloved son of Mary Kate Matthews, and raised by Charlie Jane Mathis Langston; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, he served in numerous capacities during his  
7 62 years with Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, including Sunday school superintendent, steward,  
8 choir member, finance committee member, black history chairperson, and more; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Clara, and was blessed with four  
10 remarkable children, Sonja, Eric, Felicia, and Sharonda; four wonderful grandchildren,  
11 Trenton, DeShon, Blaze, and Chase; one incredible great-grandson, Blaze; and a host of  
12 other caring, loving, and supportive family members; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews served as one of the first African American EMTs in Buena  
14 Vista, Georgia, at Fort Benning before becoming a licensed funeral director and co-owner

15 of Langston and Sons Funeral Home, which operated under his leadership for 45 years and  
16 was renamed in 2011 to Langston and Brown Funeral Home; and

17 WHEREAS, a highly successful entrepreneur, he also owned and operated Club Chandelier  
18 in Columbus, Georgia, and the Famous Ponderosa Night Club in Buena Vista, Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,  
20 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state, as evidenced  
21 dramatically by his superlative service with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,  
22 the NAACP, the Masonic Lodge, the St. Jude Research Hospital Campaign, and the Housing  
23 Authority Board of Buena Vista, Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews was recognized as the 2015 Fort Service Learning Magnet  
25 Academy's Outstanding African American Role Model as well as an African American  
26 Community Leader in 2011 and 2016 for his dedication to excellence; and

27 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
28 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
29 family and friends were admired by others; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable  
31 reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of  
32 his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and

33 WHEREAS, a humorous, compassionate, and generous man, Charlie Edward Matthews will  
34 long be remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed  
35 by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Charlie Edward Matthews  
38 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
41 family of Charlie Edward Matthews.