

Senate Resolution 1046

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Sims of the 12th, Black of the 8th, Lucas of the 26th and Davenport of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Charlie Andrew Hicks, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing Charlie Andrew Hicks, Sr., a celebrated educator, businessman, and public
4 servant; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was born in rural Reynolds, Georgia, in Taylor County on September 20,
6 1928, to Reverend Elijah and Viola Newsome Williams Hicks; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Evelyn Elaine Walton and they were
8 blessed with three remarkable children, Cassandra, Charlie, and Clarence; nine wonderful
9 grandchildren; and five fantastic great-grandchildren; and
- 10 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Charlie was an active member of Saint Phillip
11 African Methodist Episcopal Church in Butler, Georgia, where he served as Secretary,
12 Steward, and Trustee Board Chairman; and
- 13 WHEREAS, a resourceful youngster with an entrepreneurial spirit, he began his own
14 streetside shoeshine business, earning the nickname, "Boots"; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he graduated from Reynolds Industrial High School in 1945 and entered Fort
16 Valley State College, where, in addition to his studies, he worked in the school's infirmary,
17 was a campus mail delivery person, and personally assisted school president, C. V. Troupe;
18 he was later named Fort Valley State College Alumnus of the Year and was inducted into the
19 school's Hall of Fame; and
- 20 WHEREAS, after receiving his vocational agricultural degree, Charlie worked as a teacher
21 at Butler High School in Butler, Georgia, later serving as assistant principal there for 12
22 years; and

23 WHEREAS, after earning a master's degree in administration at the Tuskegee Institute and
24 pursuing additional studies at the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee, he
25 took the position of principal at Eureka Elementary & High School (later named R. L.
26 McDougald Elementary & High School); and

27 WHEREAS, encouraged and inspired by educator and mortician Robert L. McDougald, he
28 founded the Reynolds Funeral Home in Reynolds, Georgia, in 1955, which expanded over
29 the years to surrounding counties and became the HICKS & Sons Mortuary, Inc.; and

30 WHEREAS, not one to sit still for long, Charlie served as the general agent for his
31 eponymous insurance agency; hosted a long-running Sunday morning radio show, *House of*
32 *the HICKES*; and was a co-founder of the United Membership Burial Society, Inc.; and

33 WHEREAS, he served his country as a member of the United States Army Reserve until he
34 was honorably discharged in 1962; and

35 WHEREAS, Charlie served as both vice president and then the final president of the Georgia
36 Teachers and Education Association before integration led to such organization being
37 merged into the Georgia Association of Educators, where he served as the first Black state
38 field representative; in addition, Charlie was the first Black person elected to the National
39 Education Field Services Association of the National Education Association; and

40 WHEREAS, he twice served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention; was the
41 first Black candidate elected to the city council of Reynolds, Georgia, as well as the first
42 Black candidate elected to the Taylor County Board of Education; and was the first Black
43 chairperson of such board of education; and

44 WHEREAS, Charlie was an active member of his community, as evidenced by his work with
45 many organizations, including the Taylor County Certified Literate Community Program;
46 the Rural Housing Authority of Taylor County; Tuskegee Institute's GA Club; and the Beta
47 Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and

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

51 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
52 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
53 made this world a better place in which to live; and

54 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Charlie will long be remembered for his
55 love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
56 fortune of knowing him.

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
58 join in remembering the life Charlie Andrew Hicks, Sr., and honoring his tireless dedication
59 to serving his community, state, and country.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
61 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
62 Charlie Andrew Hicks, Sr.