

Senate Resolution 1061

By: Senator Lucas of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 22, 2018, as Pearl Jackson Stephens Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Pearl Jackson Stephens was born on February 22, 1887, a beloved daughter of
4 Warren and Emma Jackson; and

5 WHEREAS, Pearl, affectionately known as "Sook," was united in love and marriage with
6 her husband, Isom Stephens, and was blessed with ten remarkable children, Alfonso, Maggie,
7 Laura, Mattie, Herbert, Emma, Mary, Martha, Johnnie Mae, and Ella; and

8 WHEREAS, Pearl was a native of Wellston, Georgia, now known as Warner Robins,
9 Georgia, and early in her life she realized that she wanted to become a school teacher; and

10 WHEREAS, Pearl noticed that all of the African American children in Warner Robins,
11 Georgia, were using the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church as a school, where she
12 happened to be a faithful and active member until her death; and

13 WHEREAS, because of her love for children, she decided to go to the Houston County
14 Board of Education to discuss the construction of a school for African American children;
15 after receiving the board's approval, she donated one and one-half acres of her own land to
16 the school which was later named the Pearl Stephens School in her honor; and

17 WHEREAS, because of her generosity, Pearl was named as the founder of the original Pearl
18 Stephens School; and

19 WHEREAS, the Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit organization
20 dedicated to providing monetary assistance to students, holds fundraisers throughout the
21 year, and 100 percent of all proceeds raised are used to support such scholarships; and

22 WHEREAS, among her many accolades and awards, she was inducted into the Teacher Hall
23 of Fame for Houston County in 2008, and on October 20, 2012, she became the first African
24 American woman to be inducted into the Warner Robins Hall of Fame; and

25 WHEREAS, Pearl is continually honored by her family and friends and is remembered and
26 respected to this day by the Houston County community and by all who had the privilege of
27 knowing her.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize February 22, 2018, as Pearl Jackson Stephens Day at the state capitol.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Pearl
32 Jackson Stephens.