H.R. No. 662

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Hawthorn Funeral Home is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021, and this occasion presents a welcome opportunity to reflect on the many contributions this respected business has made to the community of Carthage; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Hawthorn family first came to Panola County in the 1860s, and in 1921, one of the descendants of the original settlers, Stephen Adolphus "Tebe" Hawthorn, founded Hawthorn Hardware and Company, which also sold caskets and rented a horse drawn wagon for use as a hearse; Tebe Hawthorn's son Neal later joined the business, and he eventually turned his home on West Wellington Street into Hawthorn Funeral Home, the first full-service undertaking business in Panola County, offering livery, caskets, embalming, and funeral direction from one location; and

WHEREAS, The family went on to hire Mark Osborne, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, and after Neal Hawthorn died in 1947, Mr. Osborne continued to run the business; in 1965, he oversaw an expansion of the facilities, adding a full sanctuary, a music room, private family seating, and the building's distinctive formal colonnade; he married Neal Hawthorn's widow, Alice, in 1968, and together the couple operated the funeral home until their retirement in 1975; and

WHEREAS, In the following years, the funeral home changed hands several times, until it was purchased by Carlton Shamburger, who started at the mortuary as an apprentice funeral director in the 1990s and rose to become manager and funeral director in charge; guided by the experience of former owner Mark Osborne and longtime employees Don Honeycutt and Melvin Johns, Mr. Shamburger took over the business and oversaw a renovation of the building; and

WHEREAS, Today, Hawthorn Funeral Home is owned and operated by the Shamburger Family Partnership LP, which includes Mr. Shamburger's children, Katherine, Meredith, and Benjamin, who help to carry on the long-standing traditions of this historic Panola County enterprise; the legacy of the Hawthorn family is maintained by the granddaughters of Neal Hawthorn, Beth and Barbara; and

WHEREAS, For the past century, Hawthorn Funeral Home has played an invaluable role in the lives of countless families in Carthage and Panola County, and it is fitting that this notable enterprise be recognized for its compassionate and dedicated service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Hawthorn Funeral Home on its centennial and extend to all those associated with the business sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Hawthorn Funeral Home as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Paddie

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 662 was adopted by the House on April 23, 2021, by a non-record vote.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the House