

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 662

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The family went on to hire Mark Osborne, a licensed
16 funeral director and embalmer, and after Neal Hawthorn died in
17 1947, Mr. Osborne continued to run the business; in 1965, he
18 oversaw an expansion of the facilities, adding a full sanctuary, a
19 music room, private family seating, and the building's distinctive
20 formal colonnade; he married Neal Hawthorn's widow, Alice, in 1968,
21 and together the couple operated the funeral home until their
22 retirement in 1975; and

23 WHEREAS, In the following years, the funeral home changed
24 hands several times, until it was purchased by Carlton Shamburger,

1 who started at the mortuary as an apprentice funeral director in the
2 1990s and rose to become manager and funeral director in charge;
3 guided by the experience of former owner Mark Osborne and longtime
4 employees Don Honeycutt and Melvin Johns, Mr. Shamburger took over
5 the business and oversaw a renovation of the building; and

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

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

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

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