

Senate Resolution 582

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th and Wicks of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Langston Funeral Home of Buena Vista, Georgia, on the
2 occasion of its more than 60 years of dedicated service to the community; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, since its establishment in 1966, Langston Funeral Home has stood as a
5 cornerstone of dignity, compassion, and service in Buena Vista, Marion County, Georgia,
6 providing families with care, respect, and professionalism during their most difficult
7 moments; and

8 WHEREAS, Langston Funeral Home was founded by the remarkable mother-and-son duo,
9 Mrs. Charlie Jane Mathis Langston and Mr. Charlie Edward Matthews, both licensed Funeral
10 Directors—an uncommon and groundbreaking achievement at the time, particularly for
11 African Americans in rural Georgia—and proud members of the Third District Georgia
12 Funeral Service Practitioners Association; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Charlie Jane Mathis Langston was a true pioneer whose service extended
14 far beyond funeral care, dedicating 36 years to education as a teacher and principal, while
15 also breaking historic barriers as the first African-American female licensed Funeral Director

16 in Marion County and the first African-American female Probation Officer in Marion County
17 and the City of Buena Vista; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Langston's exemplary life of service was recognized through numerous
19 honors, including Mortician of the Year in 1978, the prestigious Martin Edwards Award in
20 1981, and on the occasion of her 100th birthday, she was presented the Key to the City of
21 Buena Vista, an honor championed by former City Councilwoman Mrs. Gladys Thomas; and

22 WHEREAS, in a powerful symbol of her lifelong dedication to service and community, Mrs.
23 Langston was laid to rest with the Key to the City upon her passing in 2006, at the age of
24 103; and

25 WHEREAS, her son, Mr. Charlie Edward Matthews, carried forward the family legacy as
26 a licensed Funeral Director and entrepreneur, serving families with compassion and care until
27 his passing in 2020, while also expanding the original facility from approximately 800 square
28 feet to more than 2,000 square feet and laying the groundwork for future growth and
29 partnership; and

30 WHEREAS, in January 2011, the funeral home entered a new chapter through a merger with
31 Brown Funeral Home, formerly owned by Reverend Joseph Brown, becoming Langston &
32 Brown Funeral Service (DBA), thereby expanding its reach while maintaining its
33 commitment to personalized, family-centered care; and

34 WHEREAS, in January 2021, the next generation of the Langston-Matthews family stepped
35 forward to continue this proud legacy, including Dr. Sonja L. Matthews Coaxum, daughter
36 and granddaughter of the founders, along with the founders' grandchildren Trenton R.

37 Matthews, DeShon McNeill, and Blaze Coaxum, reaffirming a multi-generational
38 commitment to service; and

39 WHEREAS, later in 2021, the business reclaimed its original name, Langston Funeral Home,
40 LLC, and formally transitioned to a limited liability company, demonstrating resilience and
41 determination even in the face of profound loss following the passing of Trenton R.
42 Matthews; and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. Sonja L. Matthews Coaxum has continued the tradition of excellence by
44 earning an Associate Degree in Mortuary Science from Columbus Technical College and
45 holding a Professional Funeral Apprentice License, exemplifying the hands-on service and
46 dedication that have defined the firm since its inception; and

47 WHEREAS, today, Langston Funeral Home is operated by Dr. Sonja L. Matthews Coaxum
48 alongside Mr. Joseph Brown, and though modest in size, the firm's impact is
49 profound—having served generations of families, often caring for multiple members of the
50 same family across decades, with compassion, dignity, care, and concern; and

51 WHEREAS, Langston Funeral Home stands as more than a business, it is a living testament
52 to faith, resilience, generational perseverance, and unwavering service, reflecting the strength
53 and spirit of the community it has faithfully served for over sixty years.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
55 recognize and commend Langston Funeral Home of Buena Vista, Georgia, for its more than
56 60 years of exemplary service, leadership, and compassion, as well as extend sincere
57 appreciation to the Langston-Matthews family and all those who have contributed to its
58 enduring legacy.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
60 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Langston Funeral
61 Home.