**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SAMUEL LEE “SAM” DAVIS, OWNER OF YOUNG AND YOUNG FUNERAL HOME IN HARTSVILLE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUNERAL HOME WHICH HAS GIVEN MODEL SERVICE TO THE HARTSVILLE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Young and Young Funeral Home is celebrating three quarters of a century of outstanding service in meeting funeral needs of families in Hartsville; and

Whereas, in 1947, Harold L. and Dorothy J. Young had recently completed their study in mortuary school with a dream of building an establishment that would provide the most affordable and dignified funeral services possible for black families in Darlington County. They were blessed to receive both financial and moral support from several family and community members to open Young and Young Funeral Home in Hartsville; and

Whereas, the funeral home grew so well that the Youngs expanded in 1954 and moved the funeral home to its current location on South Sixth Street in the city’s primary black neighborhood with a structure including a large embalming room, office spaces, viewing rooms, a small chapel, and living quarters for the family; and

Whereas, with a desire to serve the community, the Youngs staffed the funeral home with individuals from the community, especially young males, and over the years, the couple invested in the lives of many young people, but only one remained, Samuel Lee Davis; and

Whereas, when Mr. Davis began working at the mortuary, he was ten years old and poor but ambitious even in his adolescence, and he worked diligently in the funeral home for several years, becoming a son to the Young family; and

Whereas, after three decades, Mr. Young passed away unexpectedly in 1978 and was followed a month later by his wife. Mr. Young had long expressed his desire that Mr. Davis, who had been a dedicated son and employee, should own a part of the funeral home; and

Whereas, shortly before Mrs. Young died, she honored this request for Mr. Davis to share ownership with the Young’s daughter, which he did until 1983 when Mr. Davis purchased her portion of the funeral home and assumed full ownership; and

Whereas, in 1996, Mr. Davis expanded Young and Young, by purchasing the lot facing the funeral home for the construction of a five‑door vehicle garage that he had envisioned along with additional parking to accommodate chapel services and community events in order to serve the community; and

Whereas, he converted the space for the previous garage attached to the funeral home into a casket‑selection room to house over thirty high‑quality units and a conference room that would provide privacy during arrangement conferences; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the singular dedication with which Sam Davis has continued to provide families with the highest level of service and respect when they entrust their departed loved ones into the care of Young and Young Funeral Home. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Samuel Lee “Sam” Davis, owner of Young and Young Funeral Home in Hartsville, on the occasion of the seventy‑fifth anniversary of the establishment of the funeral home which has given model service to the Hartsville community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Samuel Lee “Sam” Davis.

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