

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, E. Viola & Son Funeral Home, established in 1936 by Emile Viola, faithfully served the West Columbia community and Brazoria County for eighty-nine (89) years, providing compassionate care and dignified services to families during their most difficult times; and

WHEREAS, Emile Viola, a skilled carpenter and blacksmith, built the funeral home himself and laid the foundation for a multigenerational family business rooted in service, integrity, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, the funeral home was later owned and operated by Traversia and Kathryn Viola, and subsequently by their daughter, Marilyn Vern Smith, who became the final owner and manager who carried forward the family legacy following the passing of her relatives; and

WHEREAS, the decision to close the funeral home in April 2025 was made with great difficulty due to staffing challenges and changing circumstances, marking the end of an era for a business deeply woven into the fabric of the community; and

WHEREAS, E. Viola & Son Funeral Home was widely respected for its professionalism, altruism and meticulous record-keeping. Its historic records have been entrusted to the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Site to preserve local history for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Viola family was recognized as civic leaders actively involved in local organizations and honored for their service to the community. They leave a legacy of compassion, leadership and dedication that continues to be remembered and celebrated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Commissioners Court of Brazoria County, Texas, hereby honors and recognizes

E. VIOLA & SON FUNERAL HOME AND THE VIOLA FAMILY

for their eighty-nine years of devoted service to Brazoria County, and we express our sincere appreciation for their lasting contributions to the lives, history, and well-being of the community.

APPROVED this 27th day of January, 2026.

Brazoria County Judge

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

Commissioner, Precinct 1

Jay Burridge

Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ryan Cade

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Stacy L. Adams

Commissioner, Precinct 4

David Linder

