

1 HR51  
2 217274-1  
3 By Representative Sanderford  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-22

HONORING DR. WILLIAM R. LUCAS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we highly honor Dr. William R. Lucas on the occasion of his 100th Birthday on March 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lucas was born on March 1, 1922, in Newbern, Tennessee; he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry at Memphis State College, now the University of Memphis, and a Master's Degree and Doctorate in Metallurgy from Vanderbilt University; he briefly interrupted his education to serve in the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, Dr. Lucas moved to Huntsville, Alabama, to join Wernher von Braun's team at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, based at the Redstone Arsenal; after serving as a staffer with the Guided Missile Development Group, he became the agency's materials officer in 1956; in this position, Dr. Lucas designed the thermal control system for the United States' first space satellite, Explorer 1; he also selected the materials used in the rocket that made Alan Shepard the first American in space, in 1961; when von Braun's

1 team was transferred to NASA as part of the Marshall Space  
2 Flight Center in 1960, Lucas transferred to the new  
3 organization; he served in Marshall's Propulsion and Vehicle  
4 Engineering Laboratory, eventually becoming its director;  
5 while there, he developed the propulsion system for the Saturn  
6 V rocket; he also developed the world's second space  
7 station, Skylab; and

8 WHEREAS, under Dr. Lucas' guidance, Marshall Space  
9 Flight Center was given responsibility for managing three of  
10 the four main Space Shuttle elements, responsibility for the  
11 Spacelab, and responsibility for managing Spacelab missions on  
12 orbit; the Marshall Space Flight Center also led a  
13 NASA/industry led team in the development of the Hubble Space  
14 Telescope; Dr. Lucas received nearly every honor that NASA  
15 could bestow; and

16 WHEREAS, through the years, Dr. Lucas has been very  
17 involved and active in his church, First Baptist Church of  
18 Madison; he has served as Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School  
19 Superintendent, Financial Campaign Director of Faith Venture,  
20 Moderator of the Madison Baptist Association, the first  
21 President of the First Baptist Missions Foundation; Dr. Lucas  
22 has served on many committees including, Enlistment, Finance,  
23 Steering, Long Range Planning, Retirement, TV Ad Hoc, and  
24 Pastor Search; he was involved with two mission churches; and

25 WHEREAS, in his Centennial year, Dr. Lucas is  
26 beloved and admired by his family, a host of other relatives,  
27 and many friends; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
2           THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. William R. Lucas is  
3           warmly honored on his milestone 100th birthday, and we hereby  
4           wish him a very Happy Birthday and dedicate this resolution to  
5           him with heartiest appreciation, admiration, and regard.