

1 HR66
2 217274-4
3 By Representative Sanderford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 15-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, 2022; 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 the director of
5 Marshall Space Flight Center; while there, he developed the
6 propulsion system for the Saturn V rocket; he also developed
7 the world's second space station, Skylab; and

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

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

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

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