- 1 HR66
- 2 217274-4
- 3 By Representative Sanderford
- 4 RFD:
- 5 First Read: 15-FEB-22

1	217274-4:n:02/15/2022:SM/bh LSA2022-604R3
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8	HONORING DR. WILLIAM R. LUCAS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.
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10	WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we
11	highly honor Dr. William R. Lucas on the occasion of his 100th
12	Birthday on March 1, 2022; and
13	WHEREAS, Dr. Lucas was born on March 1, 1922, in
14	Newbern, Tennessee; he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry
15	at Memphis State College, now the University of Memphis, and a
16	Master's Degree and Doctorate in Metallurgy from Vanderbilt
17	University; he briefly interrupted his education to serve in
18	the United States Navy during World War II; and
19	WHEREAS, in 1952, Dr. Lucas moved to Huntsville,
20	Alabama, to join Wernher von Braun's team at the Army
21	Ballistic Missile Agency, based at the Redstone Arsenal; after
22	serving as a staffer with the Guided Missile Development
23	Group, he became the agency's materials officer in 1956; in
24	this position, Dr. Lucas designed the thermal control system
25	for the United States' first space satellite, Explorer 1; he
26	also selected the materials used in the rocket that made Alan
27	Shepard the first American in space, in 1961; when von Braun's

team was transferred to NASA as part of the Marshall Space

Flight Center in 1960, Lucas transferred to the new

organization; he served in Marshall's Propulsion and Vehicle

Engineering Laboratory, eventually becoming the director of

Marshall Space Flight Center; while there, he developed the

propulsion system for the Saturn V rocket; he also developed

the world's second space station, Skylab; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in his Centennial year, Dr. Lucas is 1 2 beloved and admired by his family, a host of other relatives, 3 and many friends; now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF 4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. William R. Lucas is 5 warmly honored on his milestone 100th birthday, and we hereby 6 wish him a very Happy Birthday and dedicate this resolution to 7 him with heartiest appreciation, admiration, and regard. 8