

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30067-LG-46 (2/3)

Sponsors: Representatives Spear, Hill, and McGee (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JACKLYN "JACK"
2 HAROLD LUCAS, ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS OF
3 THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

4 Whereas, Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas was born on February 14, 1928, to Louis
5 Harold Lucas and Margaret Edwards Lucas; and

6 Whereas, Jack Lucas spent much of his youth on a farm in Plymouth, North
7 Carolina; and

8 Whereas, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jack Lucas felt a strong desire to serve
9 his country and at the age of 14 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on August 6, 1942;
10 and

11 Whereas, after basic training, Jack Lucas was disappointed to learn that he had been
12 assigned to train new cadets, while a majority of his unit had been assigned to combat duty; and

13 Whereas, despite his orders, Jack Lucas boarded a train with his fellow marines to
14 the West Coast and was eventually assigned to duty in Hawaii; and

15 Whereas, Jack Lucas wanted to see combat and on January 10, 1945, slipped aboard
16 the USS Deuel, which was carrying members of the 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima; and

17 Whereas, after several days at sea, Jack Lucas surrendered to a senior officer and
18 was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Marine, 5th Marine Division; and

19 Whereas, shortly after landing on Iwo Jima, Jack Lucas and three other marines
20 were attacked by grenades on February 20, 1945; and

21 Whereas, Jack Lucas threw himself on one of the grenades and pulled the second
22 one beneath his body, saving the other marines from the explosion but badly injuring himself;
23 and

24 Whereas, Jack Lucas was later discharged from the Marine Corps due to his
25 injuries, but was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during a ceremony at the White
26 House on October 5, 1945; and

27 Whereas, Jack Lucas at the age of 17 became the youngest marine in history and the
28 youngest soldier in the 20th century to receive the Medal of Honor; and

29 Whereas, after leaving the service, Jack Lucas went on to complete high school and
30 college, attending Duke University for two years and graduating from High Point College in
31 1956; and

32 Whereas, in 1961, Jack Lucas rejoined the Armed Forces, enlisting in the army and
33 serving for more than two years with the 82nd Airborne Division; and

34 Whereas, Jack Lucas, and the countless men and women who have unselfishly
35 served in the military, should be commended for their service to our country; and

36 Whereas, Jack Lucas died on June 5, 2008, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and



1 Whereas, Jack Lucas is survived by his wife, Ruby Lucas; his children, William
2 Lucas, Jimmy Lucas, Louis Harold Lucas, Peggy Lucas, Kelly Lucas; and his brother, Louis Ed
3 Lucas; Now, therefore,

4 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

5 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Jacklyn "Jack" Harold
6 Lucas and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for the valiant service he
7 rendered to his country as a member of the armed forces.

8 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of
9 Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
11 resolution to the family of Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas.

12 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.