

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR85221-LG-175 (05/08)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JACKLYN "JACK"
2 HARROLD LUCAS, ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS OF
3 THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AS EXEMPLIFYING THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE
4 EMBODIED IN ALL NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS.

5 Whereas, Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas was born on February 14, 1928, to Louis
6 Harold Lucas and Margaret Edwards Lucas and spent much of his youth on a farm in
7 Plymouth, North 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 after basic training, Jack Lucas was disappointed to learn that he had been assigned to train
11 new cadets, while a majority of his unit had been assigned to combat duty; and

12 Whereas, despite his orders, Jack Lucas boarded a train with his fellow marines to
13 the West Coast and was eventually assigned to duty in Hawaii, and, wanting to see combat, on
14 January 10, 1945, Jack Lucas slipped aboard the USS Duel, which was carrying members of
15 the 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima; and

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

18 Whereas, shortly after landing on Iwo Jima, Jack Lucas and three other marines
19 were attacked by grenades on February 20, 1945, and during the attack Jack Lucas threw
20 himself on one of the grenades and pulled the second one beneath his body, saving the other
21 marines from the explosion but badly injuring himself; and

22 Whereas, Jack Lucas was later discharged from the Marine Corps due to his
23 injuries, but was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during a ceremony at the White
24 House on October 5, 1945, and at the age of 17 became the youngest Marine in history and the
25 youngest soldier in the 20th century to receive the Medal of Honor; and

26 Whereas, after leaving the service, Jack Lucas went on to complete high school and
27 college, attending Duke University for two years and graduating from High Point College in
28 1956; and

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

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

33 Whereas, many of the more than 772,264 veterans who call North Carolina home
34 continue to sacrifice a quality of life because 1,522 North Carolina veterans are homeless, an
35 estimated 6,000 veterans of the present war in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from Post Traumatic
36 Stress Disorder, roughly 11% of veterans are unemployed, and many veterans suffer from the
37 effects of Traumatic Brain Injury; and



1 Whereas, Jack Lucas died on June 5, 2008, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and
2 Whereas, Jack Lucas is survived by his wife, Ruby Lucas; his children, William
3 Lucas, Jimmy Lucas, Louis Harold Lucas, Peggy Lucas, Kelly Lucas; and his brother, Louis Ed
4 Lucas; Now, therefore,

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Jacklyn "Jack" Harold
7 Lucas as an exceptional example of the spirit of service and sacrifice endured by many North
8 Carolina veterans and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for the valiant
9 service he rendered to his country as a member of the armed forces.

10 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly recognizes that many North Carolina veterans
11 continue to sacrifice the quality of life enjoyed by civilians because of lasting effects of their
12 service and reaffirms its support for programs and services designed to improve the lives of
13 North Carolina's veteran heroes.

14 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of
15 Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas.

16 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
17 resolution to the family of Jacklyn "Jack" Harold Lucas.

18 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.