

By: Senator(s) Turner

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AND
2 LEADERSHIP OF GRAND MASTER AND GRAND JOSHUA MAURICE F. LUCAS ON
3 THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY AND HOMECOMING
4 CELEBRATION OF THE HIRAM LODGE NO. 17 OF THE PRINCE HALL
5 AFFILIATION IN WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, Maurice F. Lucas, Sr., was born in Mound Bayou,
7 Mississippi, on October 10, 1944, as the third of eight children
8 born to his hard-working parents, Julius and Gladys Lucas; and

9 WHEREAS, the ethic of hard work and diligence was instilled
10 in him by his parents on the family farm; and

11 WHEREAS, his wife, Carolyn, and their son, Maurice, Jr., have
12 offered additional incentives for him to identify and to use his
13 unique gifts; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lucas received his elementary education in
15 Renova, Mississippi, and he attended Junior and Senior High School
16 at East Side High School in Cleveland, Mississippi; and

17 WHEREAS, he furthered his education by earning the A.A.
18 Degree from Coahoma Junior College in 1969 and the B.B.A. Degree
19 from Delta State University in 1971, while working full time for
20 Baxter Laboratories, from which company he retired as a Cost
21 Analysis and Accounting Supervisor after 25 years; and

22 WHEREAS, he has also been self-employed as a Bookkeeper and
23 Tax Accountant for 34 years; and

24 WHEREAS, he has served as the Mayor of Renova, Mississippi,
25 for 26 years; and

26 WHEREAS, he has been elected to the Cleveland School District
27 Board of Trustees for 17 years; and

28 WHEREAS, his record of public service also includes his
29 appointment as a Bolivar County Hospital Medical Foundation
30 Trustee for 14 years, service as a Board Member and Treasurer of
31 the Bolivar County United Way for 17 years, service as a Board
32 Member of the Bolivar County Community Action Agency (Head Start)
33 for 8 years, service on the Board of Directors of the Industrial
34 Development Foundation, and service on the Mississippi Public
35 Service Commission Advisory Board; and

36 WHEREAS, he also has served as a member of the Bolivar County
37 Chamber of Commerce for twenty-five years, and was the first
38 African-American President of the agency; and

39 WHEREAS, he is also a member of the Mississippi Manufacturing
40 Association and a member of the National Conference of Black
41 Mayors; and

42 WHEREAS, he is a natural leader who has enhanced that ability
43 with experience and education and whose outgoing personality and
44 effective nature are tempered by a keen intelligence; and

45 WHEREAS, he is currently the Grand Master, M.W. Stringer
46 Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliated; and

47 WHEREAS, his devotion to the Masonic Order is demonstrated by
48 his membership in Sunshine Lodge No. 99 F.&A.M., Naomi Court No.
49 558 Heroines of Jericho, Bradley Chapter No. 2 O.E.S., Greenville
50 Consistory No. 157 33rd Degree; Alborak Temple No. 128 Shriners,
51 Oxford Lodge No. 3570 G.U.O. of O.F., and Post No. 220 American
52 Legion; and

53 WHEREAS, in the Fall of 1878, Hiram Lodge opened its doors in
54 West Point, Mississippi, as the 17th lodge in the State of
55 Mississippi, its purpose being to disseminate charity, promote the
56 spirit of brotherly love, teach and encourage the idea of peace,
57 harmony and goodwill among the people, along with loyalty to the
58 constituted authority of state and country; and

59 WHEREAS, long-term cooperative projects and initiatives
60 strengthened the lodge's service to West Point Public Schools,

61 business and industry, the West Point and Clay County communities,
62 the city, the district, the state and the M.W. Stringer Grand
63 Lodge; and

64 WHEREAS, the legacy of great works continues with Jordan
65 McFarland serving as Worshipful Master, in whose first year Hiram
66 Lodge will host Grand Master Maurice F. Lucas, Sr., at the First
67 Annual Founder's Day and Homecoming Celebration themed
68 "*Rethinking, Reclaiming, Rebuilding our Brotherhood*" on Sunday,
69 May 28, 2006, at St. Paul Baptist Church; and

70 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the humanitarian
71 and civic contributions of this organization and its leaders:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the humanitarian service
74 and leadership of Grand Master and Grand Joshua Maurice F. Lucas
75 on the occasion of the Annual Founder's Day and Homecoming
76 Celebration of the Hiram Lodge No. 17 of the Prince Hall
77 affiliation in West Point, Mississippi, and extend the best wishes
78 of the Senate to this civic service organization.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
80 Maurice Lucas and officers of the Hiram Lodge and be made
81 available to members of the Capitol Press Corps.