

By: Representatives Read, Busby, Zuber

To: Rules

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE LIFE
2 OF MR. FREDERICK ALOYSIUS TUCEI AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE
3 OCCASION OF CELEBRATING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 13, 1918, Woodrow Wilson was
5 completing the beginning of the second year of his second term as
6 President of the United States; the United States Armed Forces
7 were 10 months into the battle of World War I; Theodore Bilbo was
8 in the third year of his term as Governor of the State of
9 Mississippi; electricity was decades away from rural Mississippi;
10 mechanized farming was only a fledgling vision in a field of
11 dreams; women's right to vote would occur one year later; however,
12 on this day, a marvel by the name of Frederick Aloysius Tucei was
13 born on Delauney Street, now known as George Ohr Street in Biloxi,
14 Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, the child of the late Mr. Joseph Tucei and Mrs.
16 Nancy Tucei, Fred attended and graduated from Biloxi High School
17 in 1937, and entered directly into the workforce for a number of
18 years before enlisting in the United States Army on January 1,



19 1942, less than a month after the December 7th attack on Pearl
20 Harbor, where he served a brief and honorable stint as a
21 paratrooper before receiving an honorable discharge; and

22 WHEREAS, after his military discharge, Mr. Tucei returned to
23 Biloxi, Mississippi, resuming his life of hard work at such
24 companies as Latil Motors, Ingalls Shipyard and Gorenflo's
25 Hardware Store, and immersing himself with an innate affinity for
26 the outdoors, especially being on the water fishing, a passion he
27 would soon capitalize on with the 1947 establishment of Tucei's
28 Fishing Camp near Gautier, Mississippi, which became a popular
29 tourist's destination, drawing internationals and even Hollywood
30 celebrities to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the Tucei fishing
31 experience for more than 25 years of its operation before being
32 sold in 1972; and

33 WHEREAS, although not a very religious man, Mr. Tucei, who
34 experienced a traditional Catholic upbringing, is a man of strong
35 conviction and his honest approach to life has garnered him
36 countless friends and an esteemed reputation that precedes him
37 everywhere he goes; and

38 WHEREAS, as life has its way of bringing itself full circle
39 from childhood to adulthood, Mr. Tucei was born on the heel of the
40 1918 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday celebration, and in commemoration of
41 his 100th birthday, which fell on the 2018 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday
42 celebration, he was honored by the City of Gautier and the City of



43 Biloxi, the latter of which designated February 13, 2018, as "Fred
44 Tucei Day"; and

45 WHEREAS, having met his soul mate, the former Hazel Myrtis
46 Lopez, at life's intersection of love and affection, the two were
47 united in a matrimonial bond on March 27, 1944, and experienced a
48 wonderful marriage full of love, respect and honor, and they were
49 blessed with two daughters, Linda Tucei Gandy and Sandra Tucei
50 Commiskey, and two granddaughters, until the Almighty Creator, in
51 divine providence saw fit to summon Hazel's presence to the
52 heavenly court after nearly 60 years of marriage; and

53 WHEREAS, as one of the newest Mississippi members to join the
54 Centenarian Club by virtue of achieving the God-gifted age of 100,
55 Mr. Tucei continues to live an active life, fishing and traveling
56 with his family, enjoying the companionship of many who consider
57 him a father figure, and sharing his positive attitude, storied
58 outlook on life, while crediting the gift of his longevity to a
59 life well lived by staying true to himself and remaining active;
60 and

61 WHEREAS, in keeping with his mantra of maintaining an active
62 lifestyle to preserve his health and longevity, Mr. Tucei is a
63 bona fide jack of all trades, from showcasing his green thumb
64 through his gardening and cultivation of herbs, as well as orange,
65 blueberry, pecan and even his first olive tree, to the continuous
66 nursing of the live oak trees he nurses from seedling acorns more
67 than 40 years ago, to keeping his mental faculties and wittiness



68 sharp as an avid reader and word puzzles that test his acuity
69 daily; and

70 WHEREAS, when he is not tending to his own landscaping
71 maintenance, or crabbing off the wharf, the water-loving Mr. Tucei
72 can usually be found in his shop metal working or woodworking,
73 filling requests of his friends to make oyster knives, and when
74 hunger strikes, the chef du jour takes to the kitchen to prepare
75 his own fare of customary coastal cuisine, from gumbo, fig
76 preserves, boiled crab and pralines, which he is always eager to
77 share with the friends and family who like to drop in for visits;
78 and

79 WHEREAS, having lived in two centuries, including the
80 hardship of the Great Depression, Mr. Tucei has seen America
81 change from an agrarian society to an advanced technological
82 industrial giant, and on his watch he has seen 18 different United
83 States Presidents and 25 Magnolia State Governors; and

84 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge
85 and commend the life of such an astonishingly noble, experienced
86 and gentle soul as Mr. Tucei:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
88 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
89 THEREIN, That we do hereby acknowledge and commend the life of Mr.
90 Frederick Aloysius Tucei, congratulate him upon the occasion of
91 celebrating his 100th birthday, and extend warmest wishes for many
92 more years of good health, love and peace.



93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
94 furnished to Mr. Frederick Aloysius Tucei and to the members of
95 the Capitol Press Corps.

