

By: Representative McGee

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND
 2 REMARKABLE LEGACY OF ESTEEMED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF DR. AUBREY
 3 K. LUCAS, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
 4 MISSISSIPPI, AND CONGRATULATE HIM UPON BEING NAMED RECIPIENT OF
 5 THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY THE MISSISSIPPI PINNACLE AWARDS.

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, a highly revered American
 7 academician, the sixth president and now President Emeritus of the
 8 University of Southern Mississippi, having served Mississippi's
 9 "Hub City" collegiate institution of excellence from 1975 through
 10 1997, will be honored by the Mississippi Pinnacle Awards, with the
 11 organizations highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award; and

12 WHEREAS, a native of State Line, Mississippi, the impacts of
 13 Dr. Aubrey's tenure on collegiate academia extends to every corner
 14 of the State of Mississippi, from the northern
 15 Mississippi-Tennessee state line to its most southern point where
 16 land meets the waves of the Gulf of Mexico, and from the eastern
 17 Mississippi-Alabama State Line to the western metes boundaries
 18 along the mighty Mississippi River; and



19 WHEREAS, an alum of the institution which he led as chief
20 administrative officer, Dr. Lucas attained both his bachelor of
21 science and master of arts degrees from the USM before
22 subsequently and successfully matriculating towards the pursuit of
23 his Ph.D. from Florida State University, and was expedient in the
24 embarkation of his career in education to prepare the next
25 generation of exceptional citizens for academic, professional and
26 civic success as an instructor at Hinds Community College; and

27 WHEREAS, deeply entrenched in his commitment to all things
28 "Black and Gold," Dr. Lucas' lasting and transformative
29 contributions to USM long preceded his appointment to the office
30 of university president in 1975, having previously served the
31 university in numerous capacities, including, director of
32 admissions, registrar, professor of higher education and dean of
33 the graduate school, before initially being tapped to lead Delta
34 State University in 1971, as its fourth president, which further
35 allowed him to hone his skills to eventually lead his alma mater;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, donning his signature bowtie, Dr. Lucas' curricula
38 vitae boast an extensively impressive catalog of accomplishments
39 which have proven beneficial to the improvement of postsecondary
40 educational opportunities and outcomes, as highlighted by the
41 programs implemented during his leadership at USM, including
42 overseeing the university's evolution, including: formation of
43 the Teaching and Learning Resource Center; creation of the Faculty



44 Senate; establishment of the Center for International Education;
45 replacement of the quarter system with the semester system;
46 creation of the Polymer Science Institute; reorganization of the
47 university's ten schools into six colleges; and formation of the
48 Institute for Learning in Retirement; and

49 WHEREAS, even after his retirement in 1997, Dr. Lucas
50 remained a premiere authority and highly sought after bastion of
51 institutional expertise and wise counsel, returning to the
52 university's helm in interim capacities on two separate occasions,
53 as well as one year of service as interim Commissioner of Higher
54 Education, and even then he remained zealously active within the
55 community as a civic and charitable benefactor of countless
56 organizations, including such affiliations as: the United
57 Methodist Church, for which he has served as the Lay Leader for
58 the Mississippi Conference and on the General Board of Higher
59 Education and Ministry; General Board of Global Ministries of the
60 United Methodist Church; Board of Directors of Africa University
61 in Zimbabwe; Chair of the Center for Ministry at Millsaps College;
62 Chair of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art Board of Trustees; Chair
63 of the Hattiesburg Salvation Army Advisory Board; Chair of the
64 Mississippi Arts Commission; Chair of the Mississippi Institute of
65 Arts and Letters; Chair of the Board of Directors of the
66 Hattiesburg Area Community Foundation; Chair of the Mississippi
67 Economic Council; the Mississippi Humanities Council and the
68 Hattiesburg Convention Center Commission; and



69 WHEREAS, on April 9, 2024, Hattiesburg will be abuzz with
70 activity as Mississippi converges on the "Hub City" for a night of
71 awareness, scholarship and recognition as Sales and Marketing
72 Professionals announces its Humanitarian honorees, in conjunction
73 with The Mississippi Pinnacle Awards, which honors excellence,
74 professionalism and outstanding achievement in sales, marketing,
75 and community engagement; and

76 WHEREAS, the receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr.
77 Lucas now joins a prestigious guild of extraordinary
78 Mississippians who have been honored with the award, including:
79 U.S. Senator Thad Cochran; Mississippi House Speaker Billy McCoy;
80 former Mississippi Court of Appeals Justice Mary Libby Payne;
81 former Mississippi Supreme Court Justices Reuben Anderson and Ed
82 Pittman; University of Mississippi Chancellor Emeritus Robert
83 Khayat, former Mississippi Board of Education Chairwoman
84 Lucimarian Roberts; Jim Barksdale; Cornelius Turner, and blues
85 legend B.B. King; and

86 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
87 recognize and commend excellence when it is an innate
88 characteristic of greatness embodied in the life of an individual
89 of Dr. Lucas' incomparable caliber:

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
91 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
92 commend the distinguished career and remarkable legacy of esteemed
93 leadership and service of Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, President Emeritus



94 of the University of Southern Mississippi, congratulate him upon
95 being named recipient of the lifetime achievement award by the
96 Mississippi Pinnacle Awards, and extend best wishes for continued
97 success in all his future endeavors.

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
99 furnished to Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas and to the members of the Capitol
100 Press Corps.

