

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

S

D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR15099-LG-561 (4/18)

Sponsors: Senator Dorsett.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SENATOR
2 JEANNE HOPKINS LUCAS.

3 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas was born on December 25, 1935, in the City
4 of Durham, to Robert Hopkins and Bertha Holman Hopkins; and

5 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas was a graduate of Hillside High School and
6 North Carolina Central University, where she earned a BA in Foreign Languages in
7 1957 and an MA in School Administration in 1977; and

8 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas served as an educator for the Durham Public
9 Schools for 20 years, teaching French and Spanish at Hillside High School from 1957 to
10 1975, and was honored with the Durham City Teacher of the Year Award in 1974; and

11 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas served her profession as President of the
12 North Carolina Association of Classroom Teachers from 1975 to 1976, representing
13 more than 50,000 educators from across the State; and

14 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas worked in various administrative positions
15 for the Durham Public Schools from 1977 until her retirement in 1993, serving as
16 Director of Staff Development from 1977 to 1991, Director of Personnel/Staff
17 Development from 1991 to 1992, and Director of School and Community Relations
18 from 1992 to 1993; and

19 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas began an active role in politics in 1972,
20 serving as Vice-Chair and later as Chair of Precinct 29, Secretary and Chair of the
21 Durham County John F. Kennedy Young Democratic Club, Secretary and Chair of the
22 Durham County Democratic Executive Committee, and Chair of the Second
23 Congressional District Democratic Executive Committee; and

24 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas was appointed to the North Carolina State
25 Senate to fill an unexpired term in 1993, becoming the first African-American female to
26 serve in the Senate; and

1 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas, affectionately called "Queen Jeanne" by
2 some of her fellow Senators, was reelected to the Senate for six terms, where she served
3 with honor and distinction from 1995 to 2007; and

4 Whereas, during her tenure in the General Assembly, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas
5 took a special interest in such issues as education, children, senior citizens, the mentally
6 and physically challenged, and health insurance for low-income citizens; and

7 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas served in various leadership positions in the
8 Senate, including Majority Whip and Senior Chair of the Appropriations on
9 Education/Higher Education Committee, Cochair of the Education/Higher Education
10 Committee, and Vice-Chair of Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee;
11 and

12 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas made contributions as a member of other
13 committees, including Judiciary I, Mental Health and Youth Services, Pensions &
14 Retirement and Aging, the Select Committee on Insurance and Civil Justice Reform,
15 Select Committee on the Lottery Bill, Domestic Violence Commission, and the State
16 Health Coordinating Council; and

17 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas was a devoted and lifelong servant of her
18 community, serving as a member of several civic and fraternal organizations, including
19 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Links, Summit House, The Durham Committee on
20 the Affairs of Black People, and a life member of the Durham NAACP; and

21 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas was dedicated in her service to Mount
22 Gilead Baptist Church in Durham, serving as a member of the Trustee Board and
23 secretary of that Board, chair of the Budget Committee, member of the Mass Choir and
24 the Gospel Chorus, and a Sunday schoolteacher for teenagers; and

25 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas received numerous honors and awards for
26 her good deeds, including the YWCA Woman Achievement Silver Medallion, National
27 Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Award, 1998 Eighth
28 Annual Elna B. Spaulding Founder's Award, Citizen of the Year Award, Excellence
29 Award-Central Carolina Consortium, Hillside High School Alumni Award, the Federal
30 Bureau of Prisons Seymour Johnson Affirmative Action Honor, and the Durham
31 Committee on the Affairs of Black People Founders Honor Award; and

32 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas died on March 9, 2007, and will be
33 remembered as an icon, mentor, leader, visionary, educator, trailblazer, legend, charmer,
34 comedienne, politician, and Christian. She looked for the best in others, and she brought
35 out the best in others. She will also be remembered for her intelligence, compassion,
36 confidence, and integrity. She was a pioneer for the needy and the poor and a friend to
37 all; and

38 Whereas, Jeanne Hopkins Lucas is survived by her husband, William Lucas,
39 and two sisters, Bertha Hopkins Breese and Bernadette Hopkins David-Yerumo; Now,
40 therefore,

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

42 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Jeanne Hopkins
43 Lucas for her dedication and lifelong career of public service and for her many
44 contributions to her community and the State of North Carolina.

1 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
2 family of Jeanne Hopkins Lucas for the loss of a beloved family member.

3 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit certified copies of this
4 resolution to the members of the family of Jeanne Hopkins Lucas mentioned in this
5 resolution.

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