

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

DR. JOHN HARDING LUCAS, SR.

- WHEREAS,** Dr. John Harding Lucas, Sr., was born in Rocky Mount, NC, in 1920, and made his transition on March 31, 2025, at the incredible age of 104; and
- WHEREAS,** nurtured by loving parents Rev. John William Lucas and Rebecca Bowles Lucas, he pursued academic success by attending Shaw University, New York University and North Carolina Central University receiving BS and master's degrees as he advanced his teaching and educational administration career in various communities and
- WHEREAS,** he served in the United States Army in the Pacific Theatre during World War II between 1944-and 1947 achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant; and
- WHEREAS,** his marriage to the love of his life, Blondola Powell Lucas, produced two amazing children, Cheryl and John Jr., and lovingly endured 67 years until her transition in 2012; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. Lucas served in his community, state and nation with memberships in a broad array of organizations including Durham City School Board, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, North Carolina Association of Educators, Shaw University Board of Trustees, White Rock Baptist Church chair of Deacons, Weaver-McLean American Legion #175; and
- WHEREAS,** during his legendary career, many awards and recognitions were received including lifetime member of the NEA and NCAE Boards, the NC Award-the highest NC civilian Award, National School Boards' Lifetime Achievement Award, NEA Trenholm Civil Rights Award, Doctor of Humane Letters from Shaw University and many more, and
- WHEREAS,** we pause to honor the life and legacy of Dr. John Harding Lucas Sr., who dedicated his talents to serving residents of the Durham community, the State of North Carolina and the nation as a gifted teacher, principal, educational administrator, mentor, pioneering leader in the era of school desegregation, Interim President of Shaw University, civic leader and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to pay tribute to Dr. John Harding Lucas, Sr. A great man who lived a life filled with service, compassion, excellence and success. We call upon all citizens of Durham County to remember his tenacity and educational acumen and how his lifetime of efforts improved the quality of life for generations to come. His legacy lives on in all who knew him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners call on the residents of Durham County to join in reflecting on and advancing Dr. King's legacy and realizing his dream.

This the 9th day of June 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

