

BY: Senator COMRIE

CONGRATULATING Charles S. Lucas upon the occasion
of celebrating his 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Charles S. Lucas upon the occasion of his 100th Birthday to be celebrated on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, Charles Sylvester Lucas was born on February 14, 1921, in Holly Springs, North Carolina; after graduating from Washington High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, he attended Shaw University where he managed the Campus Inn in order to pay for his tuition; and

WHEREAS, After earning his bachelor's degree in history with a minor in sociology, Charles S. Lucas was hired as a history professor at Barber Scotia Junior College in Concord, North Carolina; after a year, he joined his parents in Braddock, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the steel mill for part of the summer before leaving for Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a Field Work Secretary at the Cedar Branch YMCA; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Charles S. Lucas became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter, and through this organization, he volunteered his time and energy to making his community a better place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, Four years later, Charles S. Lucas moved to Connecticut where he worked at Columbia Records; in 1954, he married the former Virginia Martin and together, they had two children, Melvelyn and Regina; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas and his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he began his career in social work as an investigator, and later, a supervisor; after the untimely death of Virginia, he raised his children alone, until he met and married Elsa Sealy in 1961; the couple relocated to Queens, New York, and had one daughter, Donna; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas continued his successful career path when he became a program coordinator for the City of New York, and then director from 1981-1994, when he officially retired; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas joined Zeta Zeta Lambda chapter in 1966,

and quickly became an active member, eventually serving as Treasurer, Vice President and Chaplain; for 15 years, he held the title of Chair of the Board of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Senior Center, and to this day, remains an important part of the organization; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with Zeta Zeta Lambda, Charles S. Lucas served two terms on the school board and was President of the South Ozone Park Coalition of Block Associations in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas and his family were devoted members of Grace Episcopal Church where he held the leadership positions of Junior and later Senior Warden, and was considered to be a trusted advisor to several ministers; and

WHEREAS, Above all, Charles S. Lucas loved his family and always made sure to be home in time for dinner and quality time; he enjoyed making cartoons, homemade toys and kites, and writing songs, stories and poetry for his children, and later, his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to remain close to his grown children, Charles L. Lucas initiated "Grandparents Matter" as a safe place where they could talk about the many facets of life; with its success, he created a website to help other grandparents better their relationships with their grandchildren; most recently, this caring family man is in the process of creating a virtual/recorded reading schedule for his great-granddaughter, Aria; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas, with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, Charles S. Lucas has enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Charles S. Lucas upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Charles S. Lucas.