

House Resolution 454

By: Representative Waites of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Chief Albert John Luthuli and recognizing February 21, 2013, as Chief Albert
2 Luthuli Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Chief Albert John Luthuli was a South African teacher and politician and has
4 long been recognized for the vital role that he played in leadership and activism and his deep
5 personal commitment to the welfare of all; and

6 WHEREAS, he was born near Bulawayo around 1898 to John Bunyan Luthuli and Mtonya
7 Gumede; and

8 WHEREAS, after completing a teaching course at Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg, he
9 accepted the post of principal and only teacher at a primary school in rural Blaauwbosch,
10 Newcastle, Natal; and he became a lay preacher in the Methodist Church; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1920, he attended a higher teachers' training course at Adams College and
12 subsequently joined the staff; and, in 1928, he became secretary of the African Teacher's
13 Association and, in 1933, its president; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1933, the tribal elders asked Albert Luthuli to become chief of the tribe, and
15 two years later, he accepted their request; and

16 WHEREAS, when the Nationalist Party adopted the policy of apartheid and disenfranchised
17 the only black Africans who had voting rights, he joined the African National Congress
18 (ANC), an umbrella organization that led opposition to the white minority government in
19 South Africa; and he was elected president of the ANC in 1952 after joining with other ANC
20 leaders in organizing nonviolent campaigns to defy discriminatory laws; and

21 WHEREAS, the government charged him with a conflict of interest and demanded that he
22 withdraw his membership in the ANC or forfeit his office as tribal chief; refusing to do

23 either, he was dismissed from his chieftainship, arrested and charged with treason, and spent
24 nearly a year in custody, only to be released with no charges; and

25 WHEREAS, he was awarded the 1960 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the nonviolent
26 struggle against apartheid, making him the first African and the first person from outside
27 Europe and the Americas to be awarded the honor; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding life and legacy of Chief
29 Albert John Luthuli is appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend Chief Albert John Luthuli for his efficient, unselfish, and
32 nonviolent activism and recognize February 21, 2013, as Chief Albert Luthuli Day at the
33 state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ambassador Thandi Luthuli
36 Gacabashe.