

Senate Resolution 117

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Stone of the 23rd and Jeffares of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of James Tobe Free; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Mr. James Tobe "Jim" Free on Monday, December 31, 2012; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Free, a beloved son of James L. and Mary Fields Free, was a life-long
5 resident of Emanuel County who promoted Georgia everywhere he went; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a man of integrity who loved God, family, and country, he served as a guardian
7 of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States National Guard for six years; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Free served as a reserve deputy sheriff for the Emanuel County Sheriff's
9 Department under Sheriff Herman Yeomans, Jr., and Sheriff Tyson Stephens; and
- 10 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Free was an active member of Oak Chapel
11 Baptist Church, serving as deacon and Sunday school teacher; and
- 12 WHEREAS, a faithful husband, he was united in love and marriage to Tot Free and was
13 blessed with three remarkable children, Bonnie Hoover, Jamie Graston, and Bill Free, and
14 eight loving grandchildren; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Free worked for many years with his father in the plumbing and electrical
16 business, was one of the first distributors of Infiltrator products in the country, and worked
17 as a senior sales representative and in government relations for 17 years at Infiltrator
18 Systems, Inc.; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he worked with diligence and integrity as a legislative representative and a past
20 president of Georgia Onsite Waste Water Association, chairman of the board of directors of

21 the Environmental Training Center in Hazlehurst, and a member of the Regional Water
22 Council of Georgia and the Georgia Environmental Health Association; and

23 WHEREAS, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, Mr. Free promoted a love
24 of bird dogs and bird hunting and enjoyed entertaining legislators throughout Georgia at
25 Marsh Hunting Preserve; he was also a certified tree farmer with the Georgia Tree Farm
26 program and loved to share his heritage and love for the family farm and was instrumental
27 in assisting and training environmentalists and septic installers all over Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
29 for intelligence, fairness, and kindness who had friends from all walks of life, and he
30 volunteered for many years as a Dixie Youth League baseball coach and as a David Emanuel
31 Academy softball coach; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Free will long be remembered for his
33 love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, and friend who gave 100
34 percent to everything he did will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 join in honoring the life and memory of James Tobe "Jim" Free and express their deepest and
37 most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. James Tobe Free.