

Senate Resolution 374

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Hiram A. (Joe) Little; 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 Hiram A. (Joe) Little on February 18, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, native son, Hiram A. Little, was born in Eatonton, Georgia, on March 31, 1919;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Little was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen; he served in the United
7 States Army Air Corps during World War II from 1941 to 1945 and was assigned to the 99th
8 Fighter Squadron at Tuskegee Army Air Field where he installed and maintained weapons
9 systems on fighter aircraft and later became a navigator-bombardier as a crew member and
10 flight officer on the B-25 bomber assigned to the 477th Bomber Group; and

11 WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge from the United States Army, Mr. Little
12 completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry at Morehouse College in 1947; and

13 WHEREAS, he was a scoutmaster and one of the founders of the Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee
14 Airmen, Inc., (TAI) Explorers Scout Program, where he held the record for public
15 appearances on behalf of TAI, averaging about 30 appearances annually at public schools
16 and colleges; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Little was a contributor to Aviation Career Enrichment camps conducted
18 by the Organization of Black Airline Pilots, the National Coalition of Black Federal Aviation
19 Employees, the Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees, and the Explorer Scout
20 Programs in Georgia and Alabama; and

21 WHEREAS, he served on the Board of Directors for the American Museum of Patriotism
22 and as chaplain of the Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Little, along with the other remaining Tuskegee Airmen, was
24 awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush, and he was also
25 recognized that same year by the State of Georgia as a Distinguished Senior Georgian; and

26 WHEREAS, each year, the Texas AME Church in Eatonton, Georgia, celebrates "Hiram A.
27 Little Day" on the third Sunday in February as a testament to his many contributions; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Little was a compassionate and generous man with a reputation for
29 integrity, wisdom, fairness, kindness, and faith, who will long be remembered for his energy
30 and tenacity to serve as an inspiration to all people, encouraging them to recognize and
31 appreciate the importance of developing a positive self-worth.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 honor the amazing life and memory of Hiram A. (Joe) Little and join in expressing their
34 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
37 Hiram A. (Joe) Little.