

Senate Resolution 173

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Tippins of the 37th, Rhett of the 33rd, Jordan of the 6th and Thompson of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. Joseph Gavalis as the Distinguished Older Georgian for 2021; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph Gavalis is a retired agent from the United States Department of
4 Labor; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis faithfully served for 28 years in federal law enforcement; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2010, Mr. Gavalis co-founded the Cobb Elder Abuse Task Force, currently
7 known as the North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis works in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, state
9 representatives, the GBI, postal inspectors, financial institutions, Adult Protective Services,
10 and many others to ensure the protection of Georgia's older adults residing in long-term care
11 facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis has been instrumental in fostering collaboration between law
13 enforcement and the Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging to protect seniors living with

14 dementia or Alzheimer's disease who are at risk of wandering through his work with Project
15 Lifesaver locator devices and K9 Scent Preservation Kits; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis has conducted more than 30 training seminars for over 200 law
17 enforcement officers and over 1,000 civilians concerning elder abuse issues in Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis is a routine guest on four radio stations representing all 15 counties
19 in Northwest Georgia and beyond, including the Area Agency on Aging's *Savvy Senior*
20 *Program* and *The Safe Senior Hour* on America's Web Radio; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis has been instrumental in providing education on financial
22 exploitation and abuse at all senior centers and adult day centers in Northwest Georgia in
23 addition to many faith-based organizations and civic groups; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Gavalis has been active in distributing education material with meals to all
25 homebound clients in Northwest Georgia.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend Mr. Joseph Gavalis as the Distinguished Older Georgian for 2021.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Joseph
30 Gavalis.