

Senate Resolution 184

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th and Esteves of the 6th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Captain Henry "Hank" Taylor Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Captain Henry "Hank" Taylor Jr. is a 2023 Black History Month honoree taking
3 his place among the elite of the global aviation industry, honored with the most prestigious
4 award a pilot can receive from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Wright
5 Brothers Master Pilot Award; and

6 WHEREAS, the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes individuals who have
7 exhibited exemplary aviation expertise, distinguished professionalism, and steadfast
8 commitment for at least 50 years of piloting experience or 50 or more years combined
9 experience in both piloting and aircraft operations; and

10 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor was a poor African American boy who grew up in the
11 gang-infested drug-ridden ghettos and government projects of West Philadelphia and who
12 dreamed of becoming a professional pilot; he lived to see that dream come true as both a
13 United States Air Force jet pilot and a United States commercial airline pilot; and

14 WHEREAS, after attending Howard University on an academic scholarship, graduating with
15 a degree in business administration, and completing the United States Air Force Reserve

16 Officer Training Corps with the Distinguished Graduate Award, Captain Taylor was
17 commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force; and

18 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor trained and evaluated numerous Air Force pilots and mentored
19 many African American student pilots as an instructor pilot and flight examiner at Reese Air
20 Force Base in Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor distinguished himself as a C-141 Jumbo Jet aircraft commander
22 flying sensitive worldwide missions, including airlift support missions for President Jimmy
23 Carter, and as captain of an American Freedom Flight rescue mission transporting evacuees
24 out of Tehran, Iran, during the Iranian Revolution in 1979; and

25 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor concluded his professional flying career as a commercial airline
26 pilot for the world's largest express transportation company, Fedex Express Corporation; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
28 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend Captain Henry "Hank" Taylor Jr. for his efficient, effective,
31 unselfish, and dedicated public service and extend best wishes for future health and
32 happiness.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Captain Henry
35 "Hank" Taylor Jr.