

By Representatives Heyman, Cosgrove, Rayson, Rojas,  
Spratt, Goodlette, Barreiro, Prieguez, C. Green, Gottlieb,  
Wilson, Bush, Kyle, Gay, Logan, Villalobos, Valdes and Cantens

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House Resolution

A resolution in recognition of Stiltsville in  
Biscayne Bay.

WHEREAS, Stiltsville is a collection of seven lodges  
built on pilings located in Biscayne Bay, south of Miami, and  
is the remains of a larger community of dwellings dating back  
to the 1930's, and

WHEREAS, a beloved relic of Miami's roguish past, the  
seven remaining Stiltsville lodges are the descendants of what  
was once an evolving community that began when "Crawfish"  
Eddie Walker built a one-story home and bait shack out of a  
barge that had been grounded in the bay in the early 1930's,  
and

WHEREAS, over the years, other homes and dwellings were  
built on pilings in the clear flats of the bay where waters  
are rarely deeper than 10 feet at high tide, and

WHEREAS, at its height, about 25 such dwellings,  
including both homes and nightspots, populated the bay's outer  
reaches, and

WHEREAS, over the years, Stiltsville earned a  
reputation for a variety of notorious activities and has stood  
as a symbol of early Miami's exotic allure, and

WHEREAS, since the late 1960's, Stiltsville has been  
more well known as a collection of privately owned dwellings  
used as weekend and vacation homes where boating, fishing, and  
relaxation are the primary activities, and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1970's, the State of Florida issued  
25-year bay-bottom leases to owners of the remaining lodges,  
and

1           WHEREAS, in 1980, the area of Biscayne Bay on which  
2 Stiltsville is located was annexed into Biscayne National  
3 Park, and since that time the National Park Service has  
4 controlled the site, and

5           WHEREAS, over the years, environmentalists and others  
6 have questioned the propriety of leasing public park land to  
7 private parties, claiming that the presence of privately owned  
8 houses is generally considered contrary to the purposes of  
9 designated national parks, and

10          WHEREAS, at the same time there are many who feel that  
11 the private, sun-worn lodges are the perfect emblem of the  
12 exotic nature of early Miami and of great historical  
13 significance, and

14          WHEREAS, the leases on all remaining Stiltsville lodges  
15 expire on July 1, 1999, and

16          WHEREAS, Stiltsville leaseholders had hoped that the  
17 community could earn status as a historic place on the  
18 National Register of Historic Places, thus saving it from  
19 extinction, and

20          WHEREAS, despite considerable public support, including  
21 the support of Congressional members from the Miami area, the  
22 National Register of Historic Places has subsequently ruled  
23 that the landmark is unworthy of a listing, and

24          WHEREAS, it is the intention of the National Park  
25 Service to demolish this Miami landmark, and

26          WHEREAS, one of the many noteworthy tributes to the  
27 charms of Stiltsville that echoes the sentiments of many who  
28 see the community as a landmark of aesthetic and historic  
29 significance for Miami came from former Florida Governor LeRoy  
30 Collins, who once wrote to a friend whose house at Stiltsville  
31 he frequented that "when the time comes when I say so long to

1 this life, I hope the great beyond seems a lot like your cabin  
2 in the sea," NOW, THEREFORE,

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4 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
5 Florida:

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7 That the House of Representatives of the State of  
8 Florida hereby supports the historic significance of  
9 Stiltsville as a Miami landmark.

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