

By Representative Bloom

House Resolution

A resolution commemorating the life of Gene Suarez.

WHEREAS, born in Matanzas, Cuba, in 1946, Gene Suarez came to the United States when he was 16 and, except for the time spent earning his degree in Boston, Massachusetts, made his home in the Miami Beach area until his death on February 12, 1999, as a result of complications related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and

WHEREAS, a tireless AIDS activist and crusading volunteer, Gene Suarez was known in the often political and tempestuous AIDS funding arena for his cool head and remarkable decision-making ability, but he will be most fondly remembered for his loving, compassionate support of those living in the troubled, hurting world of AIDS, and

WHEREAS, Gene Suarez was a successful stockbroker until his debilitating disease forced his retirement in 1991 and AIDS advocacy became his passion, after which he devoted the remainder of his life to giving full-time help and encouragement to others suffering from the disease, and

WHEREAS, the selfless outreach of Gene Suarez ran the gamut from averting the suicide of one despairing individual, to shuttling patients to a workshop or meeting or a Sunday movie and buffet, to chairing the Miami-Dade HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Advisory Board, and to attending about 20 meetings each month to address AIDS issues, and

WHEREAS, although perhaps best known for his founding and working with the People With AIDS Coalition-Dade, his efforts on behalf of AIDS victims had a much wider impact on

1 the community, as evidenced by his labors in bringing about
2 the renovation of Shelbourne House, a 24-unit apartment
3 building offering affordable housing to people living with
4 AIDS and providing the physical design features and social
5 services that allow its residents to live independently and
6 enjoy a secure and healthy environment, a project so
7 successful that a second building is in the offing, and
8 WHEREAS, although his absence will resonate throughout
9 the community and particularly among the unfortunate
10 individuals whose lives are touched by AIDS, the spirit of
11 Gene Suarez will live on in the hearts and memories of those
12 who benefited from his contributions, NOW, THEREFORE,
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14 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
15 Florida:
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17 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
18 deliberations to honor the memory of Gene Suarez and to wish
19 continued success to those who remain in the battle on behalf
20 of those struggling with the effects of acquired immune
21 deficiency syndrome.
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