

By Senator Geller

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing that the 15 Cuban refugees who landed on the old Seven Mile Bridge in Key West on January 5, 2006, should not have been repatriated under current laws of the United States.

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2006, 15 Cuban refugees, including women and children, fleeing on a small, homemade boat, landed on a piling of the old Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys, and

WHEREAS, the United States government swiftly repatriated the 15 Cuban refugees by January 9, 2006, pursuant to the "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy based on a factual determination that the refugees did not touch land but landed on an "abandoned bridge piling" that was not connected to United States land, and

WHEREAS, these refugees most likely will face political repression and punishment upon their return to Cuba, and

WHEREAS, this body acknowledges that the 15 Cuban refugees did in fact touch United States land, and

WHEREAS, the government of the United States wrongly declared that the refugees did not reach the United States and the refugees should not have been repatriated pursuant to the "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the Senate recognizes that the 15 Cuban refugees who landed on the old Seven Mile Bridge in Key West on January

1 5, 2006, reached land of the United States and were wrongfully
2 repatriated.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate urges the United
4 States government to take all legal and appropriate measures
5 to return the refugees to the United States.

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