

early death of their mother and the total destruction by fire to their family home. As a result, Catherine was raised by her mother's relatives, the Kenefick family, and remained in Canada through her early teenage years.

As a young adult, Catherine migrated to the United States, settling in Detroit, Michigan with her brother, Albert, and his wife, Ruby, before moving to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada to join her sister Mary. Catherine finally moved to Buffalo, New York in the mid 1920's where she continues to live her long, healthy and happy life.

Catherine Givens married Francis Rifenberg in 1930 and the two of them spent the greater part of their adult lives together in the Elmwood Avenue area of Buffalo, an area that Catherine truly loves for its excitement, diversity and warmth of the people. She has resided in the Stuyvesant Apartments for the last twenty years, where she continues to cook her own meals and be amazingly self-sufficient.

Catherine worked as a waitress for over forty-five years in Buffalo. Her genuine love of people and warm and welcoming ways made her a favorite at area restaurants; including, the renowned, historic "Kathryn Lawrence's Tea Room," "Laube's Old Spain" and "The Place Restaurant."

Catherine has kept close contact with her beloved Givens family offspring living in the United States and Canada. Her large family of nieces and nephews and extended family of three generations fondly refer to her as Aunt Kitty. Kitty has enjoyed a friendship of over sixty years with her dear friend Mary Marchese and she will happily tell the world that Dr. Jeremiah O'Sullivan has the answer to all her health care needs.

Catherine Givens Rifenberg, residing in the City of Buffalo, will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on the 16th day of October in the year 2005. I join today with her family and friends from near and far in celebrating this very special occasion.

#### INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARE- NESS DAY

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the 3rd National Latino Aids Awareness Day on October 15, 2005. This is a national day of awareness and prevention against HIV/AIDS in the Latino community.

The epidemic of HIV/AIDS continues to have a deleterious effect on minority communities nationwide. The Latino community has been disproportionately affected by AIDS. According to the latest data and statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Latinos represent 14 percent of the population of the United States but account for 20 percent (over 164,000) of AIDS cases nationally. AIDS-related illnesses represent the fourth leading cause of death among Latinos ages 25 to 44. By the end of 2002, nearly 88,000 Latinos had died with AIDS.

Latino communities face challenges in their fight against HIV/AIDS, including cultural stig-

ma associated with HIV/AIDS, language barriers, lack of access to adequate healthcare, and high poverty levels. I want to highlight these concerns and also bring together our nation and community towards the commitment of creating new alliances, adopting culturally specific and appropriate interventions, and advocating for new funding and resources targeted to those communities most adversely affected by this horrible epidemic.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day salutes the more than 76,000 Latino AIDS survivors in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat AIDS each day. It also recognizes and applauds national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about AIDS, providing information, and offering treatment to those who suffer from the disease. National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a renewed commitment to ending the spread of HIV/AIDS and ensuring quality of life to those with HIV/AIDS in the Latino community. This day of observance is an important opportunity to bring the community together to focus on the current state of HIV/AIDS in Latino communities across the nation.

I encourage Latinos and all Americans to learn more about HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment. I ask that we remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS, show compassion toward and support for those currently living with the disease, and pray for all families and communities whose lives have been touched in some way. This nation can no longer afford to close its eyes and avoid the impact of HIV/AIDS. Let us commit to eliminating HIV/AIDS, not only in the Latino community, but also from all communities throughout the country and the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

#### THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3824, a bill to bring much-needed reforms to the outdated Endangered Species Act (ESA). While I believe Congress must work to ensure its policies protect and preserve our nation's natural resources and environment, the current interpretation of the ESA has strayed significantly from the original intent of the law and done little to protect our nation's endangered species.

While the ESA has the laudable goal of preventing the extinction of species, the fact is the law is broken and has created an adverse relationship between the government and America's farmers, ranchers, and private property owners. For example, of the 1,304 species that have been listed as endangered over the last 31 years, only 12 have been de-listed,

a one percent success rate. Although our understanding of what is required to protect and recover endangered species has grown and become more sophisticated, the ESA has remained a blunt set of mandates that do not reflect or accommodate these advancements. I firmly believe we must allow the states and the federal government to work together to ensure the true intent of the ESA, to help preserve and recover endangered species, can be accomplished.

H.R. 3824, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act, repairs many of the problems inherent in the ESA by requiring the use of the best scientific data in all listing decisions, replacing the broken critical habitat program with a more integrated recovery planning process, and strengthening the role of states. In addition, this bill makes great strides to ensure regulatory certainty for private property owners by providing compensation for lands vital to species rehabilitation, increasing transparency throughout the process, and encouraging voluntary conservation efforts. These provisions will help ensure that species conservation efforts take a more collaborative and less confrontational approach to protecting endangered species.

Now is the time to modernize the ESA and move forward to update this law to bring it into the 21st century. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure to ensure the protection and recovery of America's wildlife, while balancing the needs of the communities in which we live and work.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERALD K. SUMIDA

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gerald K. Sumida as he retires after serving nearly 23 years as Program Director of the Hawaii Senior Companion Program (SCP).

Gerald's career with the Hawaii state government began in July 1975, where he worked in the then Corrections Division and the Adult Services Unit of the then Department of Social Services and Housing. On March 16, 1983, he began his tenure with SCP and has dedicated his time and compassion in helping improve the lives of our beloved kupuna or elders. Under the direction of Gerald, the SCP and the Respite Companion Service Program (RCSP) have gained the recognition and respectability in the aging community.

Through Gerald's guidance the Senior Companion Program has expanded its senior companion services to include Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai. Gerald's tireless efforts have provided Hawaii the opportunity to be continually blessed with two federally funded programs providing much needed services to the frail elderly population. Through Gerald's foresight, the SCP and RCSP have continued to improve the quality of life for thousands of frail elderly individuals, and the RCSP has provided hundreds of its participants the opportunity for unsubsidized employment as "older workers" in today's workforce.

Gerald's gentle and compassionate nature has given many elderly low-income individuals, with limited resources and command of