**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE GERARDO GONZALEZ OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are delighted to learn that Gerardo Gonzalez of Columbia celebrated his one hundredth birthday on December 26, 2013; and

Whereas, the son of Gerardo Gonzalez Pagan and Carmen Gonzalez Ruiz and the eldest of nine siblings, Gerardo Gonzalez was born on December 26, 1913, in the early part of the twentieth century, and he has been witness to nearly all the remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have transformed the world from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, this native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, moved to New York City in 1939 without knowing how to speak, read, or write English and lived with his sister and brother‑in‑law. In New York City, he worked as a cable‑car driver, studied hard to learn English, and in 1942, having been drafted, served in the United States Army; and

Whereas, Gerardo, a proud veteran of World War II, fought on the front lines of the European campaign for ten months. While in Europe, he served as a lineman in Germany, where he installed two hundred fifty miles of cable. He was also an MP. Upon his return to the states, Gerardo worked in the Military Post Office; and

Whereas, following his military service, Gerardo served for thirty‑two years as a foreman in the laundry of New York City’s Roosevelt Hotel until his 1976 retirement; and

Whereas, after his marriage to Luz Palmira Rodriguez in 1944, the couple moved to the Bronx, New York. Gerardo and Luz were blessed with a daughter, Maria, who married James Carrero and with him presented Maria’s parents with two grandsons, Jason and Joseph, and a granddaughter‑in‑law, Megan. Since that time, the family has been enlarged with the addition of Joseph and Megan’s son, William Joseph Carrero, making Gerardo a delighted great‑grandfather; and

Whereas, Gerardo’s beloved wife having passed away in 1982, Gerardo moved to Columbia in 1983; and

Whereas, a man who never met a stranger, Gerardo always has used his handyman skills to assist his neighbors in both New York and South Carolina and still lives in his own home; and

Whereas, this devoted husband, father, friend, and neighbor is known by many names. “Papi” to his daughter and her friends, Gerardo answers to “Wito” with his grandchildren, “Nen” with his friends and family, “Gerard” with his neighbors, and during his working days he was known as “Jerry” to fellow staff members; and

Whereas, blessed with a contagious zest for life and sense of humor, Gerardo also has a sharp mind that enables him fully to enjoy family and the natural world, especially animals, and he is grateful for all the gifts God has bestowed on him; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is pleased to honor Gerardo Gonzalez at the celebration of his centennial birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Gerardo Gonzalez of Columbia on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Gerardo Gonzalez.

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