

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 00-03 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR. OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ, CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HERO, POET, STATESMAN, AND MARTYRED REVOLUTIONARY, DURING A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY ON JOSÉ MARTÍ DAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

January 28, 2000, marks the 147th anniversary of the birth of José Martí, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and martyred democratic revolutionary. Considered the apostle of Cuban independence, Martí was arrested at the age of 15 for writing letters advocating his country's independence from Spain. When he was only 17 his opposition to colonial rule caused him to be exiled to Spain, where he published a pamphlet on the horrors of his political imprisonment in Cuba. His numerous poems, articles, and books advocated personal freedom as well as liberty for his homeland. "Liberty," he wrote, "is the right of every man to be honest, to think, and to speak without hypocrisy." Martí was fatally wounded in Dos Ríos, Cuba, during his first battle against Spanish soldiers. He was 42 years old.

Although trained as a lawyer, Martí devoted much of his energy to writing and teaching. His writings, now seen as precursors to "modernismo" in Spanish literature, were noted for their simple, fluent style and vivid imagery. A staunch supporter of public education, Martí was a teacher in Venezuela, Guatemala, and New York.

"Education is like a tree," Martí stated. "The seed is sown, and it opens out into many branches." His life will eternally remain an example for all men and women who seek to live by great ethical and moral values and standards. These are essential traits of character that we, as members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, must strive to instill in our students, being ever mindful of yet another Martí maxim: "It is necessary to make virtue fashionable."

ACTION PROPOSED BY
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR.:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 00-03 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring José Martí, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman, and martyred revolutionary, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory on José Martí Day, January 28, 2000.

RESOLUTION NO. 00-03 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR.
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ,
CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HERO, POET, STATESMAN, AND MARTYRED
REVOLUTIONARY, DURING A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY
ON JOSÉ MARTÍ DAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

WHEREAS, January 28, 2000, marks the 147th birthday of José Martí, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and martyred democratic revolutionary; and

WHEREAS, our community will hold commemorative events and celebrations dedicated to his memory in which students will be encouraged to participate; and

WHEREAS, José Martí spoke and wrote about Cuba and the aspirations of the Cuban people for liberty and sovereignty and died in a battle fighting for Cuban freedom from their Spanish oppressor; and

WHEREAS, the writing of José Martí proved to be the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters, and his works occupy a place of honor in Spanish literature; and

WHEREAS, José Martí chose to teach because he loved children, was vitally interested in education, and believed that to have a nation of free individuals, schools should train children to think and have liberated minds; and

WHEREAS, José Martí was a man of genius, imagination, hope, and courage, and gave all for this principles without thinking of any selfish return for himself;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 00-03 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring José Martí, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman, and martyred revolutionary, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory on José Martí Day, January 28, 2000.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twelfth day of January, A. D. 2000

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

Attest:

Secretary of Schools