

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-47 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S., 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, 2001**

"Men are like the stars; some generate their own light, while others reflect the brilliance they receive." In writing those timeless words, José Martí, Cuba's greatest poet, statesman, and revolutionary hero, might well have been describing his life. January 28, 2001, will be the 148th anniversary of Martí's birth.

Today, Martí's spirit still lives in the hearts, minds and souls of the Cuban people. His numerous poems, articles, and books advocate personal freedom as well as liberty for his homeland. A staunch supporter of 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. 01-47 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. M.S., 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, 2001.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-47 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.,  
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, 2001**

**WHEREAS**, January 28, 2001, marks the 148<sup>th</sup> birthday of José Martí, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and democratic revolutionary; and

**WHEREAS**, students will be encouraged to participate in various events and celebrations dedicated to his memory; and

**WHEREAS**, José Martí spent his life campaigning for liberty for the people of Cuba and died in a battle fighting for Cuba's freedom from Spain; and

**WHEREAS**, the writings of José Martí occupy a place of honor in Spanish literature as the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters; 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 teach children to think and have liberated minds; and

**WHEREAS**, José Martí was a man of genius, imagination, hope, and courage, who died for his convictions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 01-47 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. M.S., 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, 2001.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of January, A. D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

Attest:

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Secretary of Schools