

Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT:            COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
                          INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA – MAY 20, 2004**

**COMMITTEE:        LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND  
                          PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The struggle for the independence of Cuba finally concluded May 20, 1902 following a long and arduous ideological trajectory of thought brought about by Félix Varela, José Antonio Saco and José de la Luz y Caballero, and the decisive actions of Céspedes, Agramonte, Gómez and Maceo, which culminated in the leadership figure of José Martí. On May 2, 1895, Martí writes in *The New York Herald*: "The Cubans ask no more of the world than the recognition of and respect for their sacrifices".

In commemorating the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of such an important date, we also celebrate the heritage that binds Cuba with the United States. The United States, not only has offered refuge and protection to the Cuban patriots, but has also contributed to the preservation of the democratic values of the island nation.

It is important to note that in 1896, the United States Senate enacted the Morgan-Cameron resolution, recognizing the right of belligerency of the Cuban insurgent men; men who during the Cuban-American War of 1898 led the charge for the liberation of their homeland. During the first years of Cuba's development as a nation, the United States contributed to its economic recovery, the restructuring of its judicial and educational systems and the eradication of the yellow fever; following the theories of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay.

The strong ties between the two countries continue today. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been instrumental in assisting the Cuban-American community reach its educational and professional aspirations and we are proud to celebrate together this date recognizing with great respect the sacrifices made by the Cuban people. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, extends its best wishes to the Cuban-American community on the day of its independence, and together, we will maintain the hope of freedom and democracy for Cuba and its people.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, joins the Cuban-American community as it commemorates, on May 20, 2004, the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the independence of Cuba.