

Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-20 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF FRIENDS OF THE MILITARY
MUSEUM AND VETERANS MEMORIAL OF SOUTH FLORIDA TO
PRESERVE BUILDING 25 OF THE RICHMOND NAVAL AIR
STATION**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Friends of the Military Museum and Veterans Memorial of South Florida is a non-profit community organization dedicated to saving Building 25, the last remaining structure at South Florida's historic Richmond Naval Air Station. Building 25 is on the Dade Heritage Trust's list of "Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites." These sites, identified as highly significant to Miami-Dade County's heritage, are threatened by impending demolition, insufficient funds or insensitive public policy.

The window of opportunity to preserve Building 25 as a military museum and veterans memorial is closing, as the structure is rapidly deteriorating. It was from this building that our WWII heroes fought the Nazi U-boats across the Caribbean, the Cuban Freedom Fighters of the 1960s trained to fight against Castro and our South Florida Marine Corps Reserves assembled in 1991 for Desert Storm.

Adjacent to Metrozoo, Building 25 is perfect for a civic and education center that would incorporate vital elements of historical preservation, education, environmental conservation and public service into its program. Such a transformation would help preserve an important part of history and serve as an inspiration to all members of our community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-20 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the efforts of Friends of the Military Museum and Veterans Memorial of South Florida to preserve Building 25 of the Richmond Naval Air Station.

FJC:jlm

RESOLUTION NO. 04-20
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF FRIENDS OF THE MILITARY MUSEUM AND
VETERANS MEMORIAL OF SOUTH FLORIDA TO PRESERVE BUILDING 25 OF
THE RICHMOND NAVAL AIR STATION

WHEREAS, Building 25, the only structure remaining at South Florida's historic Richmond Naval Air Station, is named on the Dade Heritage Trust's "Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites" list; and

WHEREAS, this historic building was used as Navy headquarters during World War II for blimp operations against U-boat attacks on Florida and the Caribbean, served as CIA headquarters for operations against Castro by Cuban Freedom Fighters, housed Hawk Missiles during the Cold War missile crisis, served as an Army Reserve Center during the 1970s and '80s and was a Marine Corps Reserve Center during Desert Shield/Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Military Museum and Veterans Memorial of South Florida, a non-profit community organization, is dedicated to saving Building 25 as an important part of the history of Miami-Dade County as well as that of our country; and

WHEREAS, being adjacent to Metrozoo, the proposed museum and memorial could be a co-destination for school field trips; and

WHEREAS, the site could be used for a variety of activities, from hosting JROTC drill meets and competitions to serving as a center for research in local and Caribbean history to providing a place for educational programming, seminars, workshops and outreach programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-20 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the efforts of Friends of the Military Museum and Veterans Memorial of South Florida to preserve Building 25 of the Richmond Naval Air Station.

Presented this Seventeenth day of March, A.D. 2004

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary