

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO.04-24 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CANON VERNEKA STURRUP
SILVA**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Canon Verneka Sturup Silva is a native Miamian who has devoted her life to education and to community service. A retired Miami-Dade County Public Schools teacher and administrator, her love for education has never faded. She continues to educate the members of our community, from its youth to its elderly, through her civic, social and spiritual work.

Therefore, it is appropriate for this School Board to recognize the life of Canon Silva with a proclamation in her honor.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve resolution No. 04-24 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing the life of Canon Verneka Sturup Silva.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CANON VERNEKA STURRUP SILVA**

WHEREAS, Canon Verneka Sturrup, a retired Miami-Dade County Public Schools educator, has devoted her entire life to education through her civic, social and spiritual work; and

WHEREAS, the following depicts the life of Canon Verneka Sturrup Silva:

Verneka Sturrup Silva is a native Miamian who has devoted her life to education and community service. After earning a diploma from Booker T. Washington High School, she entered Florida A & M University and completed a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. She then went on to earn a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University and to pursue further graduate studies at New York University, Barry University and the University of Miami.

Verneka retired in 1986, after working as a teacher and administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 40 years, the last 20 at Coral Gables Senior High. She taught physical education, served as a guidance counselor and later as an assistant principal for guidance. She was the first black woman in the system to be named assistant principal for administration.

She has served as chairperson of the Community Relations Board, where her work included establishing workshops dealing with gangs, an important concern also in her work in the school system.

She has been a member and president of the Miami Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, president of the Dade County Inter-Alumni Council of the United Negro Fund, president of Coconut Grove Cares, President for both the local and the state Physical Education Teachers Association, and vice president of the American Legion John Griffin Auxiliary.

A true pioneer, she was a charter member of the Dade County Sickle Cell Foundation, Miami Mental Health Center, the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women, and the Women's Chamber of Commerce. She also was a member of the March of Dimes, Planned Parenthood, the NAACP, the National Council of Negro women and the American Association of University Women.

Verneka is a life member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and her sorority recognized her work with many awards. She has served both Sigma Gamma Rho and the special needs of teenage mothers through her program.

Her religious commitment has sustained her, and she has generously served her church. In 1976 she was licensed as one of the first lay ministers in the Diocese of Southeast Florida. After serving as a Eucharistic minister, she was then named an honorary Canon of the Cathedral. She has served as president of the Theodore R. Gibson chapter of the United Black Episcopalians.

Verneka spent many years contributing to the Episcopal Church Women. Her services started out in her local parish, Christ Episcopal Church. It is most fitting that the office of Southeast Florida be added to her many expressions of dedication. Additionally, Verneka has been branch president, deanery director, first and second vice president, and president of the executive board.

Verneka has also served faithfully and diligently as a member of the Joint Lenten Services Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-24 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the life of Canon Verneka Sturup Silva.

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary