

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 05-15 RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITY**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE   &   COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

"I come as a pilgrim, a pilgrim in the cause of justice and peace and human solidarity, striving to build up the one human family," said Pope John Paul II upon his arrival in Miami where he was greeted by thousands of people waving yellow-and-white papal banners, in 1987.

Since elected to the Papacy in 1978, Pope John Paul II united persons of all faiths and worked endlessly defending human rights while leading the fight against oppression. Travelling to 125 countries, he spread his message and was credited with helping topple communism in eastern Europe by sparking what amounted to a peaceful revolution in his Polish homeland. To those who did not know how to get rid of communism he comforted them by saying "Do not be afraid."

As a spiritual leader and social reformer, John Paul seized the high moral ground in world affairs. Unafraid to articulate his vision of a better world, Pope John Paul led with passion and integrity and held himself to that vision. He was the embodiment of character, leadership, and morality. It is doubtful there has ever been a pope who has so successfully translated his strength, determination and faith into such widespread respect and goodwill. In a world of shifting trends and leaders of questionable virtue, John Paul II was a towering figure at the moral center of modern life.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve resolution No. 05-15 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the life of Pope John Paul II and his contributions to humanity

**B-11**

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-15  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II  
AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITY**

**WHEREAS,** Pope John Paul II united persons of all faiths and worked endlessly defending human rights while leading the fight against oppression; and

**WHEREAS,** Pope John Paul II was the catalyst in the collapse of communism; and

**WHEREAS,** He was the embodiment of character, leadership, and morality; and

**WHEREAS,** As a civic leader, he encountered a series of government personalities during 38 official visits, 738 audiences and meetings held with Heads of State, and 246 audiences and meetings with Prime Ministers; and

**WHEREAS,** In a world of shifting trends and leaders of questionable virtue, John Paul II was a towering figure at the moral center of modern life;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 05-15 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the life of Pope John Paul II and his contributions to humanity.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2005

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**CHAIR**

**ATTEST:**

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**SECRETARY**