

Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA - MAY 20, 2005**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The struggle for Cuban Independence concluded on May 20, 1902, following a long and courageous struggle with Spain and a brief occupation by the United States following the Spanish-American War in 1898. Throughout the late 1800s, Cuban patriots including Félix Varela, José Antonio Saco, José de la Luz y Caballero, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz, Antonio Maceo, and José Martí fought for Cuban independence from Spain's colonial rule. Martí, the most well known voice for Cuban independence, organized the Cuban Revolutionary Party and gained support for the cause of independence both on the island and among exile communities throughout Latin America, the United States, and Europe. In the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, Martí was killed in a battle with Spanish troops at Dos Ríos, Cuba, on May 19, 1895.

In commemorating the 103rd anniversary of Cuban Independence Day, we also celebrate Cuban culture and the strong historical ties between Cuba and the United States. Following the Spanish-American War, the United States assisted Cuban nationals in their efforts to develop a strong and independent country. The United States contributed to Cuba's economic recovery and to the restructuring of Cuba's judicial and educational systems. Since 1959, the United States has offered refuge and protection to Cuban patriots and has promoted the preservation of democratic values and principles in the island nation.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is also proud of its efforts to support the Cuban-American community. Through strong instructional and support programs, Cuban-Americans and all other members of our community have the opportunity to reach their educational and professional potential. As we approach the 103rd Anniversary of Cuban Independence, Miami-Dade County Public Schools honors the Cuban-American community and extends hope that freedom and democracy will soon be a reality for Cuba and its people.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join the Cuban-American community as it commemorates May 20, 2005, as the 103rd anniversary of the Independence of Cuba.