Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of October 19, 2005

October 5, 2005

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Member

SUBJECT: **REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 05-45, IN MEMORY OF MR. SEYMOUR GOLDWEBER AND HIS LIFETIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND FLORIDA**

COMMITTEE: **INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Teachers, classrooms and lessons come in many forms. Though he might not have held a teaching position in the traditional sense, Seymour Goldweber, one of Florida's foremost agriculture experts for more than half a century, was a dedicated and gifted teacher in the truest sense. The world was his classroom, life was his lesson, and, whether we know it or not, we all were his students. When he passed away July 27, 2005, he left a legacy of knowledge and inspiration that will live lifetimes far beyond his own.

On a societal level, much of what we know collectively about tropical fruits and Florida agriculture we owe to him. As an agent with the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Service in Homestead since 1962, Seymour shared his expertise and often a helping hand with thousands of growers, including those struggling to save their crops in advance of freezes and in the aftermath of hurricanes. Among his many volunteer activities, he helped found Miami-Dade's Rare Fruit Council and served as a longtime member of the Dade County Agricouncil and a board member for Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. In 2002, an account of his contributions was introduced into the United States Congressional Record and is now immortalized in the U.S. Library of Congress.

On a personal level, countless individuals in Florida and beyond gained a greater understanding about life from having known Seymour Goldweber. Though stricken with polio as a child, Seymour went on to serve in the U.S. Marines during WWII, fighting in the historic Battle of Iwo Jima before returning home to his family in South Florida and the start of his illustrious career. It was not just Seymour's expertise, however, but his commitment to serving others that most distinguished him, as he inspired many with his wisdom, patience and gentleness. As one of Seymour's countless "students" put it, "I learned many important lessons from him. Perhaps the simplest and most important is that ordinary things are fascinating and meaningful if you have a discerning eye...that man and his environment live in a reciprocal relationship...that balance is important in both nature and in life...[and] that success in life includes...not just taking from your community, but giving back in both time and effort."

It is fitting that in 2004, the University of Florida created a professional scholarship named for him; we can only hope the beneficiaries of that scholarship will bring to the field the same commitment to public service that Seymour Goldweber did. It would also be fitting for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to remember Mr. Goldweber and his many contributions to others by approving a resolution in his honor.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. GREER:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 05-45 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in memory of Mr. Seymour Goldweber and his lifetime of contributions to the people of Miami-Dade County and Florida.

ELG:jjr

RESOLUTION NO. 05-45
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
IN MEMORY OF MR. SEYMOUR GOLDWEBER AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND FLORIDA

WHEREAS, born in Bayonne, New Jersey on July 24, 1918, Seymour Goldweber moved with his family to Miami when he was a young child; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Goldweber grew up in the Miami area and received his education in public schools, attending Coral Gables Grammar School and graduating from Ponce de Leon High School; and

WHEREAS, though stricken with polio as a child, Seymour Goldweber grew up to serve honorably in the United States Marine Corp during WWII, fighting in the historic Battle of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Goldweber returned to Miami after the war, where he attended the University of Miami on the G.I. Bill, earning a bachelor's degree in botany in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Goldweber embarked on a remarkable career in agriculture, eventually joining the University of Florida's Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Service as an extension agent in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Goldweber spent the rest of his career and beyond advising others on agricultural matters and pitching in to help growers in the fields in the face of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Goldweber became known in South Florida and abroad as one of the world's foremost experts on tropical fruits and Florida agriculture; and

WHEREAS, though he passed away on July 27, 2005, Seymour Goldweber will live on in the vast knowledge and inspiration he gave to others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 05-45 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in memory of Mr. Seymour Goldweber and his lifetime of contributions to the people of Miami-Dade County and Florida.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of October, A.D. 2005

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY