

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

**SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA.**

The formation of the Republic of Cuba on May 20, 1902 formally recognized the independence of that island nation after thirty years of political and armed struggle. It was the culmination of the dream for self-determination of several generations of patriots, among them Father Felix Varela, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, and Jose Marti. One hundred years after Cuba's independence, this date is celebrated with the renewed hope and faith that Cuba will once again be free.

Since its inception Cuba's history has been closely tied to the United States. During its revolutionary struggles and birth as a republic the United States would play a key, defining role in Cuba's future. A close relationship between the people of the United States and Cuba was formed and still exists today.

Our public school system serves many Cuban-Americans providing them with a good education, employment, and opportunities for advancement. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has had the honor and privilege of playing an important role in the success of the Cuban-American community and takes pride in recognizing this anniversary.

In his quest for Cuba's independence and while in exile Jose Marti wrote: "there is a time when tyranny is blinded and lets itself be overcome by the brilliance and determination of liberty". The School Board of Miami Dade County joins the Cuban people in its salute to freedom and democracy.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County joins the Cuban-American community as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the independence of Cuba on May 20, 2002.