

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-56 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF MAY 2009 AS ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE & UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES**

Each year, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in May. This year's theme, "*Lighting the Past, Present and Future*," honors the many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to America.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon President Jimmy Carter to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. On October 5, 1978, President Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with a variety of programs that promote multicultural education and cultural sensitivity in an effort to promote global understanding and harmony among students of all cultures.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-56 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the recognition of May 2009 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and authorizing administrative actions to foster related activities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-56
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING
THE RECOGNITION OF MAY 2009 AS ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO
FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated annually in May; and

WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week was designated by Congress in 1977 and was later expanded to a month long observance by Congress and President George H.W. Bush in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese settlers to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 for which the majority of the workers were Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "*Lighting the Past, Present and Future*," honors the many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to America; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools' efforts to provide its students with programs and services that emphasize ethnic pride, cultural sensitivity, positive inter-group relations, and cross-cultural communications are ongoing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-56 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the recognition of May 2009 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and authorizing administrative actions to foster related activities.

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

Presented this twentieth day of May, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary