

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE WAYS TO HONOR DECORATED AND FALLEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO ATTENDED OR ARE ALUMNI OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As we just celebrated our Nation's independence, this is an opportune time to implement programs that help students gain a deeper appreciation for American soldiers. Students must learn that there are fellow Americans risking their lives each and every day so the rest of us can enjoy the freedoms we are blessed with in the United States of America. Many of these fellow Americans gave their lives so we can enjoy our lives.

Today, soldiers of the United States of America are serving overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq. Studying and understanding our country's history and the sacrifices many made and are making so we may live in freedom is critical for students attending Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

As a District, many opportunities exist for students to learn about and honor American citizens who serve or have served our country. Specifically, focusing on those who attended Miami-Dade Public Schools would be valuable to our students. Hopefully, such an emphasis would enable students to become grateful for what some take for granted.

Many soldiers who attended Miami-Dade County Public Schools have served our country and are deserving of our respect and appreciation. One example of a former Miami-Dade County Public Schools student who could be recognized is Pfc. Roland E. Calderon-Ascencio. Calderon was killed when a bomb exploded near his vehicle during combat operations in Iraq on April 12, 2006 when he was only 21 years old. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Calderon, of Perrine in southwest Miami-Dade County, was survived by his wife Mirta and twin boys, Rolandito and A.J. who were 9 months old at the time. Calderon made the honor roll at Southridge High School, and his good grades earned him a trip to Moscow while he was in middle school.

Playing the national anthem at School Board meetings and school wide assemblies and events, and displaying portraits of decorated and fallen soldiers in high school facilities are two examples of ways to honor servicemen and servicewomen.

Efforts to honor those who serve and have served our country reinforce the knowledge students gain in class while promoting pride and deep appreciation among students, administrators, teachers, parents and members of the community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to explore ways to honor decorated and fallen American soldiers who attended or are alumni of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.