

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-089 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE VILARIÑO FAMILY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

During the Mariel Boat Lift of 1980, 126,000 Cubans abandoned the communist island in a massive exodus. The Vilariño family were among the fortunate to make it through the turbulent stretch and reach the United States. When the family left Cuba, Antonio, the family patriarch, had no culinary experience. In Cuba, he worked with cattle. After years of hardship between leaving Cuba and getting settled in the U.S., the family was determined to make the American dream come true.

In 1984 Antonio, his wife Nilda, and five daughters, bought their first restaurant, Las Vegas in Hollywood, FL. While Antonio learned to cook, Nilda and the girls catered to loyal patrons providing personable service, which has proven to be a key factor in their enduring success. Shortly thereafter, Las Vegas became known as the Cuban hot spot in Hollywood, guaranteeing customers authentic Cuban dishes and the friendliest service in town. Today with many more restaurants, the family continues to offer the same quality service, food and atmosphere that attracted locals for the past twenty years. Today, there are 15 Las Vegas locations across Miami-Dade and Broward, including one at Miami International Airport.

This month, as we continue celebrating Hispanic Heritage, it is fitting that we highlight and recognize the hard work, success, and commitment to excellence, of a Hispanic family that found freedom and opportunity in the United States.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Vilariño family. } Revised

**Revised Replacement²
H-14**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-089
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE VILARIÑO FAMILY**

WHEREAS, during the Mariel Boat Lift of 1980, over 126,000 Cubans abandoned the communist island in a massive exodus; and

WHEREAS, the Vilariño family was among the fortunate who were able to make it through the turbulent journey and reach the United States, arriving in Key West; and

WHEREAS, after years of hardship between leaving Cuba and getting settled in the U.S., the family was determined to make the American dream come true; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Antonio, the family patriarch, his wife Nilda, and five daughters, bought their first restaurant, Las Vegas in Hollywood, FL, having no prior culinary experience; and

WHEREAS, with much hard work and dedication, Las Vegas became known as the hot-spot for Cuban cuisine in Hollywood, guaranteeing customers authentic Cuban dishes and friendly service; and

WHEREAS, today, there are 15 Las Vegas locations across Miami-Dade and Broward, including one at Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage, it is fitting that we highlight and recognize the hard work, success, and commitment to excellence, of a Hispanic family that found freedom and opportunity in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Vilariño family.

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

Presented this fourteenth date of October, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary