

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NOVEMBER AS MILITARY FAMILY MONTH**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Military Family Month was first celebrated in 1993 establishing a time to graciously reflect on and honor the contributions and sacrifices made by the family members of our nation's military. Each year in November, the President of the United States proclaims November as Military Family Month, celebrating the contributions of military families and conveying to them respect and appreciation for the sacrifices they make to support their service members.

Military families continually demonstrate their dedication, service, and willingness to make great sacrifices to soldiers. They endure unique challenges related to military life including long separations from loved ones, the uncertainty and demands of multiple deployments, school and job transfers, and frequent moves. They face the dangers of combat and separation during holidays and life milestones with courage and poise. They strengthen the military community by volunteering as family readiness volunteers and ombudsmen, providing support to others when they need it most. They serve as a beacon of hope for those who have been wounded in service, supporting their journey to recovery.

Furthermore, decades of research demonstrate that Military Family readiness impacts strategic military outcomes, including resilience, retention, and readiness. Military families are vitally important, as the strength of the soldiers comes from the strength of their families. Approximately 78 percent of soldiers are from families who have served in the military and 60 percent of all soldiers have a spouse or dependents, in addition to parents, siblings, and others. Through the unconditional love and support of the military families, they are the backbone to the military.

To commemorate Military Family Month, military communities organize special events to recognize their local military families, and military families around the world are honored through various ceremonies and events.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, endorse November as Military Family Month.