

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-016 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING LINCOLN DÍAZ-BALART'S LEGACY IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Lincoln Díaz-Balart, the late U.S. Representative, was a tireless champion for freedom and democracy, dedicating his life to the fight against communism and the liberation of Cuba. Born in Havana in 1954, he was deeply influenced by his family's legacy of opposition to Fidel Castro's regime. His father, Rafael Díaz-Balart, was a prominent critic of Castro, and Lincoln carried this commitment to justice into his 18-year tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives. There, he became one of the most steadfast voices for a free Cuba, advocating for policies that resisted the Cuban dictatorship and upheld the cause of democracy.

A key part of this lifelong struggle was Lincoln Díaz-Balart's unwavering support for El Instituto La Rosa Blanca (The White Rose Institute). Founded by Rafael Díaz-Balart on January 28, 1959, in New York City, La Rosa Blanca was the first Cuban exile organization to denounce the Castro regime's mass executions and human rights abuses. Named after José Martí's famous poem La Rosa Blanca, the institute has, for over six decades, remained a beacon of democratic values, human rights advocacy, and the preservation of Cuban heritage.

Even after retiring from Congress in 2011, Lincoln Díaz-Balart remained steadfast in his mission, declaring that his work for Cuban democracy would continue as a private citizen. Until his passing at the age of 70, he never wavered in his fight for justice, human dignity, and the liberation of his homeland.

This resolution recognizes and honors Lincoln Díaz-Balart's lifelong dedication to freedom and democracy. His enduring support for El Instituto La Rosa Blanca strengthened its vital mission, ensuring that the Cuban struggle for freedom remains alive in the hearts of future generations. We extend our deepest gratitude for his legacy and the institute's continued work in educating children in Miami-Dade County Public Schools about the Cuban people's rich history and invaluable contributions.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MR. DANNY ESPINO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Lincoln Díaz-Balart's legacy in the fight for freedom.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-016 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROCLAMATION HONORING LINCOLN DÍAZ-BALART'S LEGACY IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM**

WHEREAS, Lincoln Díaz-Balart, the late U.S. Representative, was a tireless champion for freedom and democracy, dedicating his life to the fight against communism and the liberation of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, born in Havana in 1954, he was deeply influenced by his family's legacy of opposition to Fidel Castro's regime. His father, Rafael Díaz-Balart, was a prominent critic of Castro, and Lincoln carried this commitment to justice into his 18-year tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he became one of the most steadfast voices for a free Cuba, advocating for policies that resisted the Cuban dictatorship and upheld the cause of democracy; and

WHEREAS, a key part of this lifelong struggle was Lincoln Díaz-Balart's unwavering support for El Instituto La Rosa Blanca (The White Rose Institute). Founded by Rafael Díaz-Balart on January 28, 1959, in New York City, La Rosa Blanca was the first Cuban exile organization to denounce the Castro regime's mass executions and human rights abuses. Named after José Martí's famous poem La Rosa Blanca, the institute has, for over six decades, remained a beacon of democratic values, human rights advocacy, and the preservation of Cuban heritage; and

WHEREAS, under Lincoln Díaz-Balart's leadership and advocacy, La Rosa Blanca amplified the voices of Cuban dissidents, exposed the brutal realities of life under the Castro dictatorship, and worked to ensure that future generations understood the true history of Cuba's fight for freedom; and

WHEREAS, even after retiring from Congress in 2011, Lincoln Díaz-Balart remained steadfast in his mission, declaring that his work for Cuban democracy would continue as a private citizen. Until his passing at the age of 70, he never wavered in his fight for justice, human dignity, and the liberation of his homeland; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Díaz-Balart's enduring support for El Instituto La Rosa Blanca strengthened its vital mission, ensuring that the Cuban struggle for freedom remains alive in the hearts of future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 25-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, hereby recognizes and honors Lincoln Díaz-Balart's lifelong dedication to freedom and democracy and commends El Instituto La Rosa Blanca for its continued work in educating children in Miami-Dade County Public Schools about the Cuban people's rich history and invaluable contributions.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of April, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary