

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors:	Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair Mr. Roberto Alonso Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall Ms. Mary Blanco Mr. Daniel Espino Mr. Joseph S. Geller	REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-048 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 VETERANS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Veterans Day is a celebrated occasion dedicated to honoring and expressing profound gratitude for the selfless service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools community proudly recognizes and deeply values the remarkable contributions of veterans who have transitioned from military service to enrich the lives of students in the nation's third-largest school system.

The presence of veterans within our schools offers students exceptional role models who embody the highest ideals of democracy, discipline, leadership, resilience, and commitment to the greater good. By continuing their service to our nation through public education, these distinguished individuals cultivate a nurturing, inclusive, and inspiring environment that enhances the educational experience for all.

Today, we honor eight (8) exemplary District 9 veterans and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all veterans who actively serve and support the students, families, and staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

- Colonel Vincent E. Bugeja, who served in the United States Air Force from 1985 to 2015 and now serves as the AFJROTC Department Head at Homestead Senior High School.
- Ms. Mary Glasse, who served in the United States Army from 2001 to 2004 and now serves as the Community School Involvement Specialist at Howard Drive Elementary School.
- Ms. Martha Johnson, who served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2021 and now serves as a 5th Grade Teacher in the College Prep Program at Coral Reef Elementary School.
- Mr. Javier Lopez-Ruiz, who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1975 to 1981 and now serves as a Special Education Teacher at Neva King Cooper Educational Center.
- Ms. Janet McFarlane, who served in the United States Air Force from 1996 to 2004 and now serves as a 2nd Grade Special Education Teacher at Redondo Elementary School.
- Mr. Keith Reaser, who served in the United States Army from 1984 to 1986 and now serves as the Lead Security Monitor at Biotech @ Richmond Heights 9-12 Senior High School.

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- Captain James D. Silva, who served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1988 and now serves as the Dean of Students at Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy.
- Mr. Michael Slawson, who served in the United States Navy from 1981 to 1987 and now serves as a 4th Grade Math Teacher at Air Base K-8 Center for International Education.

Their dedication not only strengthens our schools but also exemplifies the enduring spirit of service that defines our nation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-048 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing District 9 Veterans.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-048
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 VETERANS**

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is a celebrated occasion dedicated to honoring and expressing profound gratitude for the selfless service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools community proudly recognizes and deeply values the remarkable contributions of veterans who have transitioned from military service to enrich the lives of students in the nation's third-largest school system; and

WHEREAS, the presence of veterans within our schools offers students exceptional role models who embody the highest ideals of democracy, discipline, leadership, resilience, and commitment to the greater good. By continuing their service to our nation through public education, these distinguished individuals cultivate a nurturing, inclusive, and inspiring environment that enhances the educational experience for all; and

WHEREAS, today, we honor eight (8) exemplary District 9 veterans and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all veterans who actively serve and support the students, families, and staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

WHEREAS, Colonel Vincent E. Bugeja, who served in the United States Air Force from 1985 to 2015 and now serves as the AFJROTC Department Head at Homestead Senior High School.

WHEREAS, Ms. Mary Glasse, who served in the United States Army from 2001 to 2004 and now serves as the Community School Involvement Specialist at Howard Drive Elementary School.

WHEREAS, Ms. Martha Johnson, who served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2021 and now serves as a 5th Grade Teacher in the College Prep Program at Coral Reef Elementary School.

WHEREAS, Mr. Javier Lopez-Ruiz, who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1975 to 1981 and now serves as a Special Education Teacher at Neva King Cooper Educational Center.

WHEREAS, Ms. Janet McFarlane, who served in the United States Air Force from 1996 to 2004 and now serves as a 2nd Grade Special Education Teacher at Redondo Elementary School.

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith Reaser, who served in the United States Army from 1984 to 1986 and now serves as the Lead Security Monitor at Biotech @ Richmond Heights 9-12 Senior High School.

WHEREAS, Captain James D. Silva, who served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1988 and now serves as the Dean of Students at Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy.

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Slawson, who served in the United States Navy from 1981 to 1987 and now serves as a 4th Grade Math Teacher at Air Base K-8 Center for International Education.

WHEREAS, Their dedication not only strengthens our schools but also exemplifies the enduring spirit of service that defines our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-048 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing District 9 Veterans.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary