

GOOD MORNING!

**CONGRESSWOMEN FREDERICA WILSON AND
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN...**

COMMISSIONER SOSA...

**DIRECTOR PATTERSON, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
AND FRIENDS...**

**IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TO
RECOGNIZE THE BRAVERY OF ONE OF OUR OWN -
MIAMI-DADE POLICE OFFICER MARIO GUTIERREZ.**

**I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE GUTIERREZ
FAMILY FOR ALLOWING ALL OF US TO BE A PART
OF THIS MEMORABLE DAY.**

**YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ALL OF US JUST WHAT A
SPECIAL PERSON OFFICER GUTIERREZ IS.**

**IT TAKES A COMMITTED PERSON TO BECOME A
POLICE OFFICER.**

**WE ALL KNOW THAT WHEN AN OFFICER GOES ON
DUTY, THEY DO SO KNOWING THE DANGERS
ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR JOBS.**

**AND FOR OFFICER GUTIERREZ THAT TUESDAY OF
OCTOBER 29, 2013 COULD HAVE BEEN HIS LAST
DAY.**

AS OFFICER GUTIERREZ DISCOVERED A SUBJECT ATTEMPTING TO CAUSE A LARGE EXPLOSION NEAR MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HE MADE THE COURAGEOUS DECISION TO APPROACH THE SUBJECT WHICH TURNED INTO A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION.

THROUGHOUT THE ENCOUNTER AND AFTER SUSTAINING MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS, OFFICER GUTIERREZ REFUSED TO BE OVER POWERED AND FOUGHT THROUGH THE PAIN ULTIMATELY HAVING TO USE DEADLY FORCE. OFFICER GUTIERREZ'S DETERMINATION PAID OFF AND A DISASTER WAS AVERTED.

WE HAVE ALL HEARD THE SAYING, THAT “THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS...”

WELL, OFFICER GUTIERREZ WAS WILLING TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR PEOPLE HE HAD NEVER MET!

BUT THAT’S WHAT HEROES DO.

A DEFINITION OF HEROISM FROM AUTHOR JOSEPH CAMPBELL SAYS:

“A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO IS WILLING TO GIVE HIS OR HER LIFE TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ONESELF.”

BY THAT MEASURE, OFFICER GUTIERREZ IS A TRUE HERO.

HE PLACED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITY.

HIS OVER TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND HIS ACTIONS REFLECT THE HIGHEST COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL OF WHAT TRUE PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO HELP OTHERS IS ALL ABOUT.

ON BEHALF OF THE OVER 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR ACTIONS, AND YOUR SERVICE.

CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON, THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING OFFICER GUTIERREZ, AND FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY.

AND FINALLY, TO YOUR FAMILY, I KNOW THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE, AND THE SUPPORT AND LOVE YOU GIVE, WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL TO YOU TOO.

THANK YOU.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

