

**GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE.**

**PRESIDENT ROSENBERG, THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION AND FOR ALL FIU HAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE INSTITUTION IS TRULY "WORLD'S AHEAD."**

**I IMAGINE WE HAVE VISITORS TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HERE WITH US TODAY.**

**WELCOME TO THE BEST COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!**

**AS MAYOR OF THE LARGEST COUNTY IN THE THIRD-MOST POPULOUS STATE IN OUR COUNTRY, I'M PROBABLY EXPECTED TO BELIEVE THAT...**

**BUT AS A LIFELONG RESIDENT WHO HAS SEEN THE COUNTY TRANSFORM FROM A SMALL VACATION DESTINATION TO A GLOBAL, WORLDCLASS COMMUNITY OF 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, WITH MILLIONS VISITING ANNUALLY AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT COMING INTO OUR COMMUNITY, I BELIEVE THAT**

**MIAMI IS WHAT OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE IN THE NEXT DECADE.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS THE FUTURE AND WE ARE ALL EXCITED ABOUT WHAT IS TO COME!**

**THIS AFTERNOON IS A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION.**

**SEVENTY YEARS AGO TODAY, A PAINFUL CHAPTER IN WORLD HISTORY CAME TO A CLOSE.**

**WHILE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES MAY CHOOSE TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT UPON THIS DAY IN DIFFERENT WAYS, WE ALL REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES MADE BY EVERY NATION, AND SWORE TO NEVER EVER AGAIN ALLOW SOME OF THE ATROCITIES THAT TOOK PLACE TO HAPPEN AGAIN.**

**BUT PERHAPS THERE ARE MISSING PIECES TO OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORIES...**

**IN FACT, THE ROLE OF CHINA IN THE PACIFIC WAR THEATER MAY NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE**

**ATTENTION IT DESERVES. THE CHINESE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE AMERICANS AND OUR ALLIES AND PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE WAR. ONE EXPERT WROTE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT CHINA WAS "THE FORGOTTEN ALLY."**

**TODAY, IN ADDITION TO REMEMBERING ALL THE EFFORTS MADE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE EFFORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MADE, LET US NOT FORGET THAT COUNTRIES LIKE CHINA ALSO DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.**

**I OPENED MY REMARKS MENTIONING HOW MUCH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS TRANSFORMED TO A GLOBAL COMMUNITY. WE HAVE DONE SO BY BEING RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF VERY CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND BY COMMITTING TO MAKING THE NECESSARY INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WE ARE RESILIENT BECAUSE OUR COMMUNITY HAS FACED CHALLENGES – NATURAL DISASTERS LIKE HURRICANES ANDREW, KATRINA AND WILMA AND ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS SUCH AS THE GREAT RECESSION -- BUT HAVE EMERGED FROM THOSE DIFFICULT PERIODS STRONGER.**

**I'M CERTAIN CHINA HAS SIMILAR STORIES OF RESILIENCY.**

**AND MUCH LIKE CHINA HAS WORKED TO MODERNIZE ITS INFRASTRUCTURE, OUR COUNTY HAS INVESTED IN OURS.**

**MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$34 BILLION LAST YEAR AND SUPPORTED 282,000 JOBS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**OUR SEAPORT, KNOWN AS PORTMIAMI IS CONSIDERED THE "CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" AND JUST COMPLETED A MULTI YEAR DEEP DREDGE PROJECT THAT WILL ALLOW SUPER FREIGHTERS TO COME TO OUR PORT ONCE THE EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL IS COMPLETE.**

**BOTH INVESTMENTS AT OUR AIRPORT AND SEAPORT HAVE REQUIRED SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, BUT OUR GOVERNMENT COMMITTED MODERNIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AT BOTH BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT THE JOBS OF TODAY, WILL HELP CREATE EMPLOYMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MIAMI RESIDENTS, AND WILL**

**KEEP US COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE.**

**INDEED, WE ARE CONSIDERED THE GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA, BUT OUR GOAL IS TO EVENTUALLY BE KNOWN AS THE GLOBAL GATEWAY TO EUROPE, ASIA AND THE WORLD!**

**THERE IS A LOT WE CAN LEARN MIAMI-DADE AND CHINA CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, AND AS MAYOR I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COLLABORATION.**

**IN FACT, LAST MONTH I WAS ONE OF ONLY EIGHT MAYORS AND THE ONLY COUNTY MAYOR INVITED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST U.S.-CHINA CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT IN LOS ANGELES.**

**MAYORS FROM BOTH OR COUNTRIES SIGNED A COMPACT TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE. THESE ARE THREATS THAT AFFECT US ALL BECAUSE AS I USUALLY SAY, MOTHER NATURE KNOWS NO GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDARIES.**

**I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY, AND ALSO BELIEVE IT HIGHLIGHTS THE FACT THAT CHINA AND**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON DESPITE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US.**

**FIU HAS A CAMPUS IN CHINA AND SOLID RELATIONSHIPS THERE THAT ARE ONLY GROWING. AS NEW OPPORTUNITIES OPEN UP, REST ASSURED THAT FIU HAS MY SUPPORT. I'M ALSO WELL AWARE THAT SEVERAL CHINESE INVESTORS ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING INVESTMENTS HERE IN MIAMI. WE WELCOME THAT AND OTHER POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COLLABORATION.**

**IN FACT, GIVEN ALL THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED, AND BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE MAKEUP OF OUR COMMUNITY WHERE SO MUCH FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS WELCOMED, I BELIEVE EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR A CONSULATE HERE SHOULD BE STUDIED. I WOULD WELCOME IT.**

**IN CLOSING, I BELIEVE THAT THE END OF WORLD WAR II BROUGHT ABOUT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION.**

**MAY THIS ANNIVERSARY REINVIGORATE OUR FRIENDSHIPS AND A SENSE THAT WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.**

**THAT NO MATTER WHAT CHALLENGES WE FACE, WE CAN AND SHOULD COME TOGETHER TO RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES AND MAKE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.**

**MAY THEY NEVER LIVE THROUGH ANOTHER GLOBAL CONFLICT. MAY WE TRULY NEVER EVER AGAIN EXPERIENCE WHAT WE DID ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.**

**DR. ROSENBERG, FRIENDS, FELLOW RESIDENTS, MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

