

Your honor, thank you for your kind introduction, and on behalf of Mayor Carlos Gimenez, let me thank all of you for being here this morning as we gather to celebrate National Law Day.

Today we honor a tradition started by President Dwight Eisenhower over 55 years ago, to mark and celebrate our nation's commitment to the rule of law.

The theme of this year's National Law Day is paramount to the continued success of the rule of law, and one of its fundamental principles – that every vote matters.

Ours is a government where the power of government is given through the consent of the governed. And that consent is granted through the ballot box.

President Eisenhower is quoted as having said that “The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”

It is up to all of us to ensure that this future is safeguarded by protecting the right to vote.

It is also fitting that we focus on this theme as we prepare to commemorate the fiftieth anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, those two landmark pieces of legislation that expanded the civil and political rights of Americans.

This serves to remind us all that protecting the right to vote is an ongoing process, one that we must all engage in, as government and civic leaders.

This is why we are here today, and I want to thank you for your work to advance voting rights, and for supporting the future of democracy.

On behalf of Mayor Gimenez and the 2.5 million residents of Miami-Dade County, it is my pleasure to present you with this proclamation naming today National Law Day.

