

GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS,
FELLOW RESIDENTS...

AS WE ENTER INTO THE SUMMER SEASON, WE ARE
CELEBRATING GRADUATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTY, AND HIGHLIGHTING THE COMPLETION OF
YET ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR.

THIS MORNING, WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE THE
SCHOLASTIC AND COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE THE
MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS FOR THE MONTH OF
JUNE.

THEY REPRESENT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF
MIAMI DADE COUNTY IN THE AREAS OF
SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE.

THIS MONTH'S WINNERS ARE FEATURED IN OUR
HALL OF STARS ON MY WEBSITE, AND YOU CAN
READ MORE ABOUT THEM AND PAST WINNERS AS
WELL.

IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE
MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS FOR JUNE.

OUR UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR IS HAYDEN HARRIPAUL, A JUNIOR AT SCHOOLHOUSE PREPARATORY WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER ZAPATA'S DISTRICT.

HAYDEN WAS BORN WITH HALF A HEART AND HAS UNDERGONE NUMEROUS OPEN HEART SURGERIES SINCE BIRTH.

AT SIX MONTHS OLD, HIS DOCTORS REALIZED HE WAS DEAF IN HIS LEFT EAR AND HARD OF HEARING IN HIS RIGHT EAR.

HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED NUMEROUS THERAPIES AND PERSEVERED, GRADUATING AT THE TOP OF HIS 8TH GRADE CLASS AND BECOMING A DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENT AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE IN 10TH GRADE.

TWO YEARS AGO, HAYDEN WAS DIAGNOSED WITH THYROID CANCER TWO YEARS AGO.

HE TURNED IN ALL OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS AND EARNED AN "A" ON EVERY TEST ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT BE IN SCHOOL.

HAYDEN HAS A 4.0 GPA AND IS THE VALEDICTORIAN AND PRESIDENT OF STUDENT COUNCIL.

HE ALSO STARTED A COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUB AT HIS SCHOOL CALLED THE PACK GIVES BACK THAT DELIVERS TOYS TO CHILDREN WHO ARE HOSPITALIZED AT MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

HE HAS ALSO PLACED HIMSELF IN SPEECH THERAPY TO HELP IMPROVE HIS ARTICULATION, AS HE VISITS COLLEGES SPEAKING TO FUTURE TEACHERS ABOUT THE IMPACT SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS CAN HAVE ON SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS.

HAYDEN PLANS TO STUDY INTERIOR DESIGN AND TO BECOME A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER WHO TEACHES OTHERS HOW FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE CAN HELP OVERCOME ANY CHALLENGE AND BEAT ALL ODDS.

LET'S GIVE HAYDEN A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

OUR EMERGING LEADER IS BIANCA LOPEZ, A SENIOR AT MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER BELL'S DISTRICT.

BIANCA WAS NOT ABLE TO JOIN US THIS MORNING BUT I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HER.

BIANCA IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS OF HER VENTURING CREW AS PART OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

THROUGH SCOUTING, SHE HAS LEARNED TO BE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS YOUNG ADULT AND FEELS AT HOME WHILE CAMPING, HIKING, AND PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE.

SHE HAS EARNED THE BRONZE AWARD IN GIRL SCOUTING AND A BRONZE AWARD IN VENTURING, AS WELL AS HER FIRST AID, CPR, AED, AND WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS. BIANCA IS CURRENTLY WORKING TOWARD A GOLD AWARD IN VENTURING.

BIANCA ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERS AT DEERING ESTATE, WHERE SHE COMPLETED JUNIOR NATURALIST TRAINING.

SHE ALSO DEDICATES HERSELF TO HER SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, THE PANTHER, AS A COPY EDITOR ON THE LEADERSHIP BOARD. BIANCA IS ALSO A YOUTH AMBASSADOR FOR THE MILITARY APPRECIATION PROGRAM.

SHE VOLUNTEERS AT THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND SOUTH, WHERE SHE ASSISTS BASE EMPLOYEES AND RECORDS EVENTS FOR THEIR NEWSLETTER.

THIS OPPORTUNITY HAS DEEPEINED HER RESPECT FOR THE MILITARY AND HER LOVE OF JOURNALISM.

BIANCA HAS ATTENDED THREE JOURNALISM CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT HER HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND WILL BE ATTENDING THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONVENTION IN BOSTON THIS NOVEMBER.

LET'S GIVE BIANCA A BIG HAND!

AND, OUR PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE IS MICHAEL GUTIERREZ, A JUNIOR AT HIALEAH GARDENS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER DIAZ' DISTRICT.

MICHAEL HAS A 5.5 GPA AND IS A MEMBER OF ALL HIS SCHOOL'S HONOR SOCIETIES. HE ALSO PARTICIPATES IN TUTORING YEAR-ROUND, HELPING SECOND-LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN VARIOUS SUBJECT AREAS.

HE JOINED HIS SCHOOL'S MARCHING BAND HIS FRESHMAN YEAR AND IS NOW PART OF THE DRUM LINE. HE HAS MAINTAINED HIS RIGOROUS CLASS SCHEDULE WHILE ALSO ATTENDING DAILY REHEARSALS. H

E HAS ALSO COMMITTED HIMSELF TO INSTRUCTING HIS SCHOOL'S NEIGHBORING MIDDLE SCHOOL'S DRUM LINE.

IN HIS SPARE TIME, MICHAEL DESIGNS THE WEBSITE FOR THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS PARK'S BASEBALL PLAYERS AND ALSO MAINTAINS THEIR STATISTICS.

MICHAEL HOPES TO ACHIEVE HIS DREAM OF BECOMING AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST. HE AIMS TO ATTEND DARTMOUTH OR JOHN HOPKINS, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT A PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTION WILL PREPARE HIM FOR A CAREER OF EXCELLENCE.

LET'S GIVE MICHAEL A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

MADAM CHAIR, THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS MAKE US ALL PROUD, AND EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR GREAT COUNTY.

LET'S ALL JOIN TOGETHER IN GIVING THEM ALL ONE FINAL HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

