

MADAM CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, FELLOW RESIDENTS...

AS WE JUST COME BACK FROM LABOR DAY WEEKEND, AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON IS IN FULL SWING, I AM PLEASED THIS MORNING TO ANNOUNCE THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION IS EXTRA SPECIAL BECAUSE IT MARKS THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS.

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE LAUNCHED THIS AWARD TO RECOGNIZE THESE TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NOT ONLY HAVE WORKED HARD TO ACHIEVE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR LIVES, BUT HAVE IMPROVED THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL.

I CAN SAY THAT EVERY SINGLE SHINING SCHOLAR HAS EXHIBITED AN EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE THAT HAS MADE US ALL PROUD, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY HAVE INSPIRED US IN OUR OWN SERVICE AS WELL.

THEY ARE ALL REMARKABLE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN...AND THIS MONTH'S SHINING SCHOLARS ARE NO DIFFERENT.

THEY ARE ALL LEADERS IN THE AREAS OF EXCELLENCE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP.

AS WITH ALL PAST WINNERS, TODAY'S HONOREES WILL BE FEATURED IN THE MAYOR'S HALL OF STARS ON MY WEBSITE.

SO, MADAM CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS MONTH'S MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS.

OUR PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE IS VICTORIA KONTZAMANYS, A SENIOR AT TERRA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER BELL'S DISTRICT.

VICTORIA HAS A 4.88 GPA.

SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, THE CAPTAIN OF THE TERRA EMERALD'S CHEER AND DANCE TEAM, AND HAS DANCED AT DANCE EMPIRE FOR 13 YEARS, WHERE SHE IS NOW A COMPANY DANCER.

SHE HAS ALSO SERVED AS A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CITY OF MIAMI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND THE 2014 YOUTH NON-VIOLENCE SUMMIT.

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM, VICTORIA PARTICIPATES IN PAGEANTS AND STRIVES TO REPRESENT THE VALUES OF SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE, STYLE, AND SUCCESS.

SHE CURRENTLY HOLDS THE TITLE OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH TEEN U.S.A. AND WILL COMPETE FOR THE STATE TITLE OF MISS FLORIDA TEEN U.S.A. IN OCTOBER.

AFTER SHE LOST HER GRANDMOTHER TO HEART DISEASE AND DIABETES, AND LOSING HER FATHER TO CANCER, VICTORIA HAS DEDICATED TIME TO EDUCATING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES ON HOW THEY CAN LEARN TO BE HEALTHY AND LIVE LONGER, HAPPIER LIVES.

VICTORIA DONATES THE FUNDS FROM THE SALES OF HER COOKBOOK, WHICH SHE WROTE AND PUBLISHED WITH HER FATHER, TO MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

VICTORIA HOPES TO EARN A SCHOLARSHIP TO A STATE UNIVERSITY AND PURSUE HER DREAM OF OWNING A MARKETING FIRM WHERE SHE PROMOTES PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.

LET'S GIVE VICTORIA A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

OUR EMERGING LEADER IS KRYSTAL S. DIAZ, A JUNIOR AT MIAMI SPRINGS SENIOR HIGH, AND SHE LIVES IN CHAIRWOMAN SOSA'S DISTRICT.

KRYSTAL IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, AND IS A SEMI-FINALIST FOR THE POSSE SCHOLARSHIP.

SHE IS A FINE MUSICIAN, SERVING AS THE PERCUSSION CAPTAIN IN HER SCHOOL'S MARCHING BAND, AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY, AN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY.

SHE IS ALSO FIRST CHAIR IN THE PRESTIGIOUS MDC HONORS BAND, WHICH IS CHOSEN BASED ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR.

KRYSTAL SERVES OUR COMMUNITY AS A HOMELAND SECURITY EXPLORER, A TEEN COURT YOUTH ATTORNEY, AND A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION EXPLORERS.

SHE IS ACTIVE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER COMPETITIONS AROUND THE STATE.

KRYSTAL WAS BUSY ALL SUMMER AS A VOLUNTEER WITH HOPE FOR MIAMI AS AN FIU READING BUDDY, HELPING STRUGGLING READERS IMPROVE THEIR READING SKILLS.

IT'S TELLING THAT KRYSTAL WAS NOMINATED BY A RESIDENT OF THE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY SHE HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

KRYSTAL HAS ALWAYS SHOWN LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS, AND SHE HAS BROUGHT JOY TO THEM BY SERVING THEM ALL IN A POSITIVE AND HELPFUL MANNER.

LET'S GIVE KRYSTAL A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

AND, OUR UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR IS WILLIAM THOMAS GILMORE, A SENIOR AT CORAL REEF

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER MOSS' DISTRICT.

WILLIAM WAS BORN WITH SPEECH AND HEARING DELAYS, FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED TREATMENT IN PRIVATE AND SCHOOL THERAPY FOR FIVE YEARS.

BUT HE HASN'T LET ANY OF THAT THAT STOP HIM!

WILLIAM WAS A FINALIST IN THIS YEAR'S UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST.

WILLIAM IS ON FIVE SPORTS TEAMS, SERVED AS THE MANAGER OF HIS SCHOOL'S SWIM TEAM, AND HAS WON THE HUSTLER AWARDS FOR BOWLING, TRACK AND FIELD, AND GOLF.

HE IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO CLUB, THE TREASURER OF THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY, AND A MEMBER OF THE 5000 ROLE MODELS CLUB, THE ROBOTICS TEAM, AND THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS.

HE HAS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN WEEK-LONG SUMMER MISSIONS CAMPS AT CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, THROUGH WHICH HE HAS CLEANED AND

DEVELOPED AREAS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WILLIAM HAS SHADOWED ENGINEERS AT BOTH THE NASA GLENN RESEARCH CENTER AND THE NASA KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, AS WELL AS AT A LOCAL ENGINEERING FIRM.

TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS, HE FOUNDED THE PRE-ENGINEERING SOCIETY FOR YOUTH ON FACEBOOK, WHICH SERVES AS A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING.

WILLIAM AIMS TO BECOME AN AEROSPACE ENGINEER AND WORK FOR NASA.

LET'S GIVE WILLIAM A BIG HAND!

VICTORIA, KRYSTAL, AND WILLIAM JOIN A GROUP OF TRULY OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN NAMED AS MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS, AND WHO REPRESENT THE VERY BEST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FUTURE.

YOUR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ALL OF US ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF YOU!

SO LET'S GIVE THEM ALL ONE FINAL BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

