

THANK YOU CARLOS FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, AND THANK YOU ALL.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ELECTED LEADERS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TONIGHT:

-MAYOR OF CITY OF MIAMI TOMÁS REGALADO AND

-STATE REPRESENTATIVE ERIK FRESEN.

I PERSONALLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG LADY.

OVER MY THREE DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE, I'VE HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE SPEECHES AND PRESENT AWARDS AROUND THE

COUNTY, BUT TONIGHT IT IS ABOUT MORE THAN A SERVICE; IT IS AN HONOR TO PRESENT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST.

KENISHA (KEN-EE-SHA) ANTHONY IS AN INSPIRATION TO HER PEERS, HER EDUCATORS, AND HER COLLEAGUES.

SHE HAS FACED MANY CHALLENGES SINCE A VERY YOUNG AGE, AND YET HAS OVERCOME THE HARD TIMES WITH GRACE AND SELF-DETERMINATION TO CREATE HER OWN DESTINY AND SUCCESS.

KENISHA IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE POWER OF OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.

SHE CAME INTO FOSTER CARE AT THE AGE OF FIVE WHEN SHE WAS REMOVED FROM THE CUSTODY OF HER PARENTS.

SHE IS A DRIVEN, MOTIVATED AND BRILLIANT YOUNG LADY WHO HAS WORKED TO GET THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE.

AFTER RETURNING TO SCHOOL AT AGE 16, SHE WAS ENCOURAGED TO GO INTO THE G.E.D

PROGRAM. BUT KENISHA WOULD NOT SETTLE FOR JUST THAT.

SHE WENT THE EXTRA MILE AND ATTENDED NIGHT CLASSES TO CATCH UP ON HER STUDIES.

KENISHA OBTAINED HER HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND WENT ON TO EARN HER ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE WHERE SHE MADE THE DEAN'S LIST EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SHE HAS NOW RELOCATED TO TALLAHASSEE WHERE SHE SERVES AS THE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR FOR FLORIDA YOUTH SHINE, A STATEWIDE YOUTH

ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION UNDER FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST.

SHE IS ALSO PURSUING HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND I HEAR SHE DOESN'T PLAN ON STOPPING THERE; SHE WANTS TO OBTAIN HER LAW DEGREE AS WELL!

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID: "THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS."

KENISHA'S BIGGEST DREAM IS TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE TO THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.

SHE HAS TRAVELED ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO FACILITATE WORKSHOPS AND PARTICIPATE IN MANY STATEWIDE TRAININGS TO ACCOMPLISH HER GOAL.

WE WISH HER ALL THE BEST IN A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HER!

I AM HONORED TO PRESENT THE LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ON BEHALF OF FLORIDA'S

CHILDREN FIRST, TO KENISHA ANTHONY AS THE
YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR.

-KENISHA ACCEPTS AWARD

-PRESENT HER A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
AND

-A PROCLAMATION FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO
FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST

