

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

TODAY WE JOIN HUNDREDS OF COUNTIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO CELEBRATE COUNTY DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AS PART OF THE NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH.

I WANT TO THANK OUR COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR EVERYTHING THEY DO AND FOR OFFERING OUR SENIORS THE THREE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS THAT WE ARE RECOGNIZING HERE TODAY.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE FOR YOUR COMMITMENT, FOR SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, FOR VOLUNTEERING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOURS, AND FOR ENCOURAGING CITIZENS TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY.

AS A PUBLIC SERVANT FOR THREE DECADES, I KNOW THAT SERVICE TO OTHERS IS CENTRAL TO HOW WE MEET OUR CHALLENGES AND A HALLMARK OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER.

I KNOW THAT WITH THE MANY SOCIAL NEEDS FACING OUR COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO TURN TO EACH OTHER AND ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERISM TO HELP MEET THESE NEEDS.

THIS IS WHY MAYORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE ENGAGING CITIZENS AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS TO COME UP WITH SMARTER STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES WE ALL FACE.

A KEY PARTNER IN THIS EFFORT IS THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS).

CNCS IS THE FEDERAL AGENCY THAT OVERSEES AMERICORPS, SENIOR CORPS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT ENGAGE MILLIONS OF CITIZENS IN SERVICE EACH YEAR.

AMERICORPS MEMBERS AND SENIOR CORPS VOLUNTEERS ADDRESS THE MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES FACING OUR CITIES AND NATION.

WHETHER THROUGH STRENGTHENING EDUCATION SO OUR CHILDREN CAN HAVE A BETTER FUTURE, OR PROVIDING SERVICES THAT IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR ELDERS, NATIONAL SERVICE IS

ABOUT GETTING THINGS DONE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

NATIONAL SERVICE PARTICIPANTS INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THEY SERVE THROUGH THEIR DIRECT SERVICE - AND BY RECRUITING AND MANAGING MILLIONS OF ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS.

HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AMERICORPS MEMBERS AND SENIOR CORPS VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE VITAL SUPPORT TO OUR RESIDENTS.

YOU DON'T HEAR THEIR STORIES IN THE NEWS OFTEN ENOUGH, BUT EVERY DAY THEY HEAD OUT, AND THEY TOUCH LIVES AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.

FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS, WE HAVE SPONSORED ALL THREE OF THE CNCS SENIOR CORP PROGRAMS:

THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

AND THE SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM.

THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM PROVIDES TUTORING AND MENTORING TO AT RISK CHILDREN OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THE RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECRUITS AND MATCHES VOLUNTEERS 55 YEARS AND OLDER WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

AND, THE SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM PROVIDES COMPANIONSHIP TO HOMEBOUND ELDERS ACROSS THE COUNTY AND RESPITE SERVICES TO VETERAN FAMILIES.

FOR ALL THE WORK AND SERVICE OUR VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE.

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN THOUSANDS OF MAYORS TODAY IN THE THIRD ANNUAL MAYORS DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.

LET'S GIVE ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

[LEAD APPLAUSE AND PRESENT PROCLAMATION]

NOW IT'S MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

