

MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS, FRIENDS...

IT'S MY PLEASURE THIS MORNING TO ANNOUNCE OUR "SHINING SCHOLARS" FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

THIS IS AN EXTRA SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR ME BECAUSE IT SERVES AS AN OCCASION TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT SOME OF OUR FINEST YOUNG RESIDENTS ARE MAKING FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

THE THREE STUDENTS WHO WE ARE HONORING TODAY ARE BEING RECOGNIZED IN THE AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND OVERALL EXCELLENCE.

THEY ALSO SHARE A PASSION FOR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

AS WITH PAST WINNERS, THEIR PROFILES ARE FEATURED IN OUR "HALL OF STARS" ON MY WEBSITE.

AND NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS, IT'S MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE OUR LATEST "SHINING SCHOLARS."

OUR “EMERGING LEADER” IS ANTONIO ALFARO, A JUNIOR AT TERRA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER LEVINE-CAVA’S DISTRICT.

ALONG WITH CONSISTENTLY ACHIEVING HONOR ROLL AT HIS SCHOOL, ANTONIO IS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS, INCLUDING VEX CLUB FOR ROBOTICS AND ENGINEERING, JAPANESE CLUB TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER CULTURES, R.T.S. CLUB FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, AND CHESS CLUB.

ANTONIO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL -- AN AUXILIARY OF THE AIR FORCE -- FOR OVER TWO YEARS, AND RECENTLY RECEIVED HIS OFFICER STATUS. HE IS ALSO THE TEAM SQUAD LEADER FOR THE JUNIOR FIRE CADETS PROGRAM, THROUGH WHICH HE HOPES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ANTONIO HAS ALREADY EARNED HIS C.P.R. CARD, AND WILL BE VOLUNTEERING WITH THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN HOW TO PROVIDE FIRST-RESPONDER AND PATIENT-ASSESSMENT SKILLS.

IN ADDITION, HE WILL BE LEARNING HOW TO PUT OUT FIRES AND PROVIDE OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES.

ANTONIO HAS ALSO EARNED HIS JUNIOR SCUBA DIVER CERTIFICATION AND PRACTICES MIXED MARTIAL ARTS AND KARATE.

HE ENJOYS CREATING VIDEO GAMES AND PROGRAMS, AND STRIVES TO LEARN TO SPEAK SPANISH AND JAPANESE.

LET'S GIVE ANTONIO A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

OUR "UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR" IS MEGAN ACOSTA, A SENIOR AT ST. BRENDAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER JORDAN'S DISTRICT.

DESPITE AN AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER THAT REQUIRES HER TO USE ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES TO RETAIN INFORMATION, MEGAN HAS TAKEN HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS SINCE SHE WAS IN SIXTH GRADE,

INCLUDING PRE-I.B. (INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE) COURSEWORK. SO FAR, SHE HAS COMPLETED 10 ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES.

MEGAN HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING SINCE AGE FOUR IN A HOLIDAY TOY COLLECTION AND, TODAY, SHE CONTINUES TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF “TEAM SANTA,” AN ORGANIZATION THAT COLLECTS OVER 1,000 TOYS DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND DELIVERS THEM TO THE CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS AND TO HOSPITALS.

MEGAN NOT ONLY SORTS AND CATEGORIZES EACH TOY FOR DELIVERY, BUT SHE HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN RECRUITING NEW DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM HER SCHOOL AND GYM OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

MEGAN HAS ALSO BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF DEVELOPING “S.T.A.C.E.Y.” -- AN ACRONYM WHICH STANDS FOR “STROKE AWARENESS CAN EMPOWER YOUTH.”

THE ACRONYM WAS CREATED IN HONOR OF “STACEY,” A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF MEGAN’S MOTHER WHO SUFFERED A DEBILITATING STROKE A YEAR BEFORE MEGAN’S OWN MOTHER SUFFERED A SERIES OF MINI STROKES. MEGAN HOPES TO HONOR STACEY FOR HER HELP IN SAVING HER MOTHER’S LIFE BY EDUCATING YOUNGER STUDENTS ABOUT

HOW STROKES ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE ELDERLY, AND BY PROMOTING STROKE AWARENESS AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES.

S.T.A.C.E.Y. IS CURRENTLY SPEARHEADING ITS FIRST COMMUNITY EVENT ON DECEMBER 19TH.

LET'S CONGRATULATE MEGAN!

LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, OUR "PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE" IS LOGAN ROTH, A SENIOR AT CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHO WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER MOSS' DISTRICT.

LOGAN IS CURRENTLY IN THE I.B. ACADEMY AT HIS SCHOOL AND HOLDS A 4.591 GPA. HE IS A MATH TUTOR THROUGH THE MU ALPHA THETA HONOR SOCIETY, AND TUTORED SEVERAL STUDENTS EVERY MONDAY LAST YEAR. HE ALSO PARTICIPATES IN THE I.B. THEATRE COURSE.

AS A MILITARY CHILD, LOGAN WORKS ON SEVERAL PROJECTS AT "SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND SOUTH" ON THE HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE.

HE HAS ORGANIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS -- A FREE NIGHT OUT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES.

LOGAN IS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE, HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE, HOLIDAY PARTY, AND EGG HUNT. FOR HIS EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILITARY AND ITS FAMILIES, LOGAN WILL BE RECEIVING AN AWARD FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL.

LOGAN IS ALSO AN AVID READER AND WRITER. HE PARTICIPATES IN THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR AND HAS SUBMITTED HIS WORK TO BE PUBLISHED. HE STARTED A CAMPAIGN CALLED “LOGAN’S LITERACY,” WHICH ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO READ MORE.

THROUGH HIS CAMPAIGN, LOGAN COLLECTS NEW AND USED BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS, AND DONATES THEM TO STUDENTS, DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBERS, THE ELDERLY IN ASSISTED LIVING HOMES, AND PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS.

WITH THE HELP OF HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY, LOGAN’S FLORIDA-BASED CAMPAIGN NOW EXTENDS TO GEORGIA.

LOGAN STRIVES TO BE A LAWYER AND AN ACCOMPLISHED WRITER. HE ALSO HOPES TO

**CONTINUE TO PROMOTE LITERACY THROUGHOUT
THE UNITED STATES.**

**LET'S APPLAUD LOGAN FOR HIS REMARKABLE
ACHIEVEMENTS!**

MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS, FRIENDS...

**THESE YOUNG MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS ARE A
SHINING EXAMPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S
BRIGHT FUTURE...AND SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION
TO US ALL!**

**PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THEM FOR
THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND HARD WORK!**

CONGRATULATIONS, ANTONIO, MEGAN AND LOGAN!

