

By Representatives Bullard and Wilson

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the 500 Role Models of Excellence Project of Miami-Dade County.

WHEREAS, founded in 1993, the 500 Role Models of Excellence Project is a program through which adult mentors are paired with more than 4,000 at-risk young males 9-19 years old in an effort to provide them with alternatives designed to lead them away from crime and violence, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to instill in youth the values of mainstream America, while respecting the existing values of the individual, the 500 Role Models of Excellence Project focuses on the assumptions that there are positive, successful men in the community to emulate, that there are positive alternatives to self-destructive behaviors and societal pitfalls, and that everyone must assume responsibility for preparing today's children to effectively deal with the challenges and struggles with which they are confronted, and

WHEREAS, distinctive in their black slacks, white dress shirt, and red necktie and kerchief emblazoned with the 500 Role Models logo, a small hand next to a large hand, 95 percent of the students who begin the program in middle school and continue through their high school and postsecondary education years are reported to have no further violations of student conduct codes or the law, and

WHEREAS, thanks to funds for scholarships raised annually through the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Scholarship Breakfast, students entering the program are guaranteed a chance either to attend college or to choose from numerous postsecondary opportunities geared toward preparing them for the next level of education, always with the

1 assurance that mentors are available to assist them in making
2 their choices and achieving their goals, and

3 WHEREAS, the nationally acclaimed 500 Role Models of
4 Excellence Project of Miami-Dade County has been featured on
5 national media programs, has received several awards, and has
6 attracted the involvement of numerous prominent Americans,
7 NOW, THEREFORE,

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9 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
10 Florida:

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12 That the House of Representatives recognizes the
13 outstanding success of the 500 Role Models of Excellence
14 Project, expresses its gratitude to the project's thousands of
15 volunteer workers and mentors, and heartily applauds and
16 congratulates the fine young men who themselves have become
17 role models worthy of emulation.

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