

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-028 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. MARIO KREUTZBERGER KNOWN AS “DON FRANCISCO” FROM SABADO GIGANTE (GIANT SATURDAY)**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The Guinness Book of World Records lists “*Sabado Gigante*” (Giant Saturday) as the longest televised variety program in history—airing for 52 years. Since 1962, *Sabado Gigante*’s creator and only host, Mario Kreutzberger is known as Don Francisco. Don Francisco has charmed generations of audiences.

He became an integral member of many households of all backgrounds building connections across generations and even helping some viewers learn Spanish. Don Francisco delivered joy, music, company, and information while encouraging family values and fun for audiences. As a student from the American University Washington College of Law said during her graduation celebration:

“Maybe you do not realize it, Don Francisco, but for many of us you were our “nana” during our infancy and youth. Your presence in our homes, Saturday afternoons and evenings left marks in our hearts.”

Beyond these accomplishments, in 1978, Mr. Kreutzberger wanted to further serve the public. That year he created the first “*Teleton*” (Telethon) in South America. For 43 years he hosts this TV charity show for disabled Chilean children, raising more than a billion dollars. He then helped create 14 more “*Teletons*” (Telethons) and is the Hispanic spokesperson for the US Muscular Dystrophy Association. For his important social work, the United Nations Organization for children conferred to him the title of Ambassador of UNICEF; and since 2012, Mario Kreutzberger has been Vice-President of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the United States.

During his career, Mr. Kreutzberger has received numerous awards and honors, including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Papal Benemerenti Medal awarded by Pope John Paul II, and an Emmy. His name is in the Hall of Fame of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Television in the United States.

He recently completed his fourth bestselling book, *Con Ganas de Vivir* (With Desire to Live) where he describes some of his amazing interviews, his family history, his success, challenges, motivations, and much more.

For Mario Kreutzberger's talent, altruism, enthusiasm, and spectacular life's work that has benefitted so many children and adults, our School Board recognizes him today. We look forward to Mr. Kreutzberger's continued accomplishments in the future.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 21-028 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mario Kreutzberger known as "Don Francisco" from *Sabado Gigante* (Giant Saturday) for his talent, altruism, enthusiasm, and spectacular life's work that has benefited so many children and adults.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-028  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MR. MARIO KREUTZBERGER KNOWN AS “DON FRANCISCO”  
FROM *SABADO GIGANTE* (GIANT SATURDAY)**

**WHEREAS**, The Guinness Book of World Records lists “*Sabado Gigante*” (Giant Saturday) as the longest televised variety program in history—airing for 52 years. Since 1962, *Sabado Gigante*’s creator and only host, Mario Kreutzberger is known as Don Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, Don Francisco became an integral member of many households of all backgrounds building connections across generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Don Francisco delivered joy, music, company, and information while encouraging family values and fun for audiences; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978, Mr. Kreutzberger created the first “*Teleton*” (Telethon) in South America. For 43 years he hosts this TV charity show for disabled Chilean children, raising more than a billion dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, he helped create 14 more “*Teletons*” (Telethons) and is the Hispanic spokesperson for the US Muscular Dystrophy Association. For his important social work, the United Nations Organization for children conferred to him the title of Ambassador of UNICEF; and since 2012, Mario Kreutzberger has been Vice-President of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, during his career, Mr. Kreutzberger has received numerous awards and honors, including a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Papal Benemerenti Medal awarded by Pope John Paul II, and an Emmy. His name is in the Hall of Fame of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Television in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, he recently completed his fourth bestselling book, *Con Ganas de Vivir* (With Desire to Live) where he describes some of his amazing interviews, his family history, his success, motivations, and much more.

**WHEREAS**, Don Francisco has charmed and cheered the spirits of generations of audiences.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 21-028 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mario Kreutzberger known as “Don Francisco” from *Sabado Gigante* (Giant Saturday) for his talent, altruism, enthusiasm, and spectacular life’s work that has benefited so many children and adults.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this fourteenth day of July, A.D. 2021**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary