

# College Hispanic Council

## Martyrs of February 24, 1996

### Scholarship Application

### **DEADLINE: Monday, February 12, 2007**

On February 24, 1996, two small airplanes on a search and rescue mission were shot down by two Cuban Air Force MiG airplanes. This premeditated action violated the right of civil aviation to fly over international waters, and violated the most basic right of these individuals, the right to life. Armando Alejandro was born in Cuba and came to live in the United States when he was 10; Carlos Costa was born in Miami and lived with his parents; Mario de la Pena, a 24-year-old born in New Jersey, lived at home; and Pablo Morales had left Cuba on a raft, searching for freedom.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in its report of June 1996, concluded that the two planes were downed approximately 21-22 miles north of Cuba. ICAO concluded that the MiGs never tried to communicate with the civil aircraft and did not signal for them to land. They did not use warning shots, nor did they indicate that an attack was imminent but instead they shot missiles containing eight kilograms of high explosives that pulverized the aircraft so that there was no debris and no survivors. The shoot down was also condemned internationally by organizations such as the United Nations Commission of Human Rights and by its counterpart at the Organization of American States.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, then United States ambassador to the United Nations, strongly condemned these murders at a special session of the United Nations Security Council. In gratitude for her support, a group of civic organizations in Miami sponsored a dinner in her honor. The proceeds from this event have been used to establish a scholarship fund at Miami-Dade College and administered by the College Hispanic Council.

These scholarships are awarded to Miami-Dade College students based on criteria which includes academic achievement and leadership activities. Eligible students must possess the following:

- *Completion of at least 12 credit hours toward an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science by the end of current term*
- **Not Limited to Hispanic Students**
- *Overall GPA of 3.00*
- *Scholarship will cover tuition, fees, and other related educational materials*
- *Scholarship is only available for students continuing their studies at Miami Dade College or transferring to a university*
- *One scholarship will be awarded to an aviation-related major*
- *Recipients will be required to attend the Award Ceremony and Reception*

Interested students are asked to submit the following:

1. *Completed application found on the reverse side*
2. *Recent copy of Transcript or Degree Audit*
3. *Essay (750 words, 3-4 pages, double-spaced). Essay must contain three bibliographic sources and at least one NOT from the Internet.*

Almost 10 years after the shoot down, in October 2005, a six year-old boy drowned in the Florida Straits when his parents, together with 20-plus others, paid smugglers to leave the Island in search of freedom and a better life in the US.

Discuss why now, ten years later, Cubans are still leaving their homeland. They are leaving in spite of dangerous conditions at sea and the likelihood of interception by the US Coast Guard, which almost always means a return to Cuba. What is your reaction today, in view of this child's death and the continuing exodus, of the work that the four men killed were doing on behalf of their sisters and brothers in Cuba?

**Martyrs of February 24, 1996**  
Scholarship Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Major \_\_\_\_\_ G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_

MDC Campus \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated date of graduation from MDC: \_\_\_\_\_

**Extracurricular Activities (clubs, organizations, hobbies, community involvement):**  
Please use additional paper if necessary.

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Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommending Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Application, Transcript or Degree Audit, and Essay (see previous page) due to:

**North Campus:**  
Ana Corrales  
School of Business  
Room 3242

**Kendall Campus:**  
Maria C Mari  
School of Business  
Room 6319

**Wolfson Campus:**  
Ana Hernandez  
Communications  
Room 3604

**InterAmerican Campus:**  
Emily Sendin  
English  
Room 1357

**Homestead Campus:**  
Judy Lever  
Computer Science  
Room B127

**Hialeah Campus:**  
Martin Guerin  
ESL  
Room 1415

**Medical Campus:**  
Joe Simmons  
Room 2227

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