

2007 Horatio Alger Florida Scholars



Photo By Dennis Blumhoff

A pep talk by the new Miami Dolphins head coach Tom Coughlin at the Dolphins Training Center Tuesday, May 22, 2007 in Doral, Fla. provided the opportunity to meet and take photos with one of the country's foremost entrepreneurs and philanthropists **Walter H. Wayne Halzenga**, or a personal conversation with a sitting member of the US Supreme Court, **Clarence Thomas**, could add to the highlights of a graduating senior's last days in high school. The nearly one hundred high school seniors from Broward, Martin and St. Lucie Counties felt that the genuine congratulations and encouragement to continue their educational pursuits they received from each of the three men and women will be the most memorable. The young people were assembled with their parents, teachers, advisors and principals at the Dolphins Training Center on Tuesday for a special ceremony to recognize their achievement of being named one of only one hundred 2007 Horatio Alger Florida Scholars.

This was not a typical event to mark the end of a student's high school career but an opportunity for a unique meeting of people who have all faced significant obstacles and refused to let those obstacles limit their aspirations or diminish their drive to succeed. The Horatio Alger Florida Scholarship is unique among college scholarship programs because facing and overcoming adversity and need are the primary criteria. These high school seniors were selected by demonstrating a drive to accomplish their goals in the face of daunting adversity by adding integrity, perseverance and hard work. These high school seniors have also demonstrated success in academics, co-curricular activities and community service while taking on some of life's most difficult challenges. Each of the students was honored for their accomplishments this far and receives a two thousand five hundred dollar college scholarship that may be utilized to attend any college or university in the United States to continue their educational endeavors.

The Horatio Alger Florida Scholarship program was initiated in 1992 and is funded through the generosity of **Walter H. Wayne Halzenga, Sr.** and **Mrs. Halzenga** have been actively involved in the Horatio Alger Association since 1992 when Mr. Halzenga was inducted as a lifetime member of the organization. This is the 10th class of the young people to receive scholarship through the program. Mr. Wayne Halzenga said, "This scholarship goes beyond the

financial assistance you receive to help pay for your college education and includes the support and advice of the Horatio Alger Association, the country's largest provider of need-based college scholarships."

"All of us in this room have had some difficult times. Wealth and I want you to consider this moment as your college education is a new beginning toward the successful education that will surely come in each of your lives," remarked Wayne Halzenga when addressing the group and introducing Associate Supreme Court Justice **Clarence Thomas**. Both Wayne Halzenga and Clarence Thomas are recipients of the Horatio Alger Award and Members of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, an organization comprised of individuals who have overcome adversity to achieve success. Wayne Halzenga currently serves as the Association's Chairman Emeritus and was President & CEO from 2000 through 2002. In 1990 he was Chairman of Horatio Alger Awards Induction Ceremony in Washington, DC.

Justice Thomas delivered a special keynote address to the scholars about preparing for their future and philosophy for succeeding when the odds are stacked against them. Justice Thomas talked about his own journey from a rural farm house in Georgia to the halls of our nation's highest court. Justice Thomas also took questions from the young scholars about life, career and opportunities emphasizing to the teens he, "Consider no aspiration impossible and do it your very best everyday."

Wayne Halzenga is founder, Chairman and President of numerous companies including Waste Management, Inc., Amstar, Blackstone Entertainment Corporation, Republic Services, Inc. and Central Stay America. Mr. Halzenga is also the owner of the National Football League team, the Miami Dolphins. Mr. and Mrs. Halzenga have been active supporters of many charities including the Boys and Girls Club, the Salvation Army, the Broward County Africa American Research Library and Women and Kids in Distress.

The Horatio Alger Association is a non-profit educational association providing more than twelve million dollars a year in need based scholarships to deserving high school seniors. For more information about the Association or its programs visit www.horatioscholar.org.

Applications for consideration as a 2008 Horatio Alger Florida Scholar are available at www.horatioscholar.org beginning June 1, 2007 to students graduating in 2008 who are residents of Broward, Martin or St. Lucie counties.

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| Filipatik Alerte
South Broward High School | Nora C. Dixon
William T. McFalls Vo-Tech HS | Alper Kahya
Atlantic Technical Magnet School | Fernando J. Pineda
Atlantic Technical Magnet School |
| Luciano Alexandre
Coconut Creek High School | Jennifer Doyle
Pompano Beach High School | Marc A. Knazevic
South Broward High School | Jonathan L. Raley
Port St. Lucie High School |
| Maria B. Alvarez
Olympia High School | Audrea F. Durao
Coral Springs Charter School | Michael J. Kadadok
McArthur High School | Daniela Rendón
Olympia High School |
| Olivia Y. Alves
Monarch High School | Javaris J. Edgercombe
St. John West Community High School | Lynnea A. Kunkle
Fort Pierce Westwood High School | Monique S. Hickman
Blomington High School |
| Angel Adajar
Hillandale High School | Shayenne D. Ervin
Pompano Beach High School | Kristen M. Leahy
Boyd H. Anderson High School | Jeanne M. Rodriguez
McArthur High School |
| Carole G. Austin
Hillandale High School | Patricia C. Felci
American Heritage Sch Plantation | Gandine M. Leahy
Piper High School | Makandall Saint-Eloi
Shalheena High School |
| Rebekah L. Baloghovic
Hollywood Hills High School | Kristal A. Falgout
Piper High School | Joan E. Ledesma
Olympia High School | Aristley Sanchez
Volusia County High School |
| Robt A. Bell
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. | Whitney J. Fisher
Hillandale High School | Ceyline Leguinape
Mizner High School | Janique Santos
Hollywood Hills High School |
| Braxton S. Bellman
Blanche Bay High School | Cindrella Fleurbaey
Hollywood Hills High School | Gary Leung
Piper High School | Kevin L. Sliak
Piper High School |
| Brendon M. Borwick
St. Lucie West Community High School | Austin D. Filion
South Fork High School | Miguel A. Livares
Mizner High School | Zachary R. Shapiro
J.P. Taravella High School |
| Andres L. Bofill
McArthur High School | Yamirco Francisco
Pompano Beach High School | Chunsoong Lo
Coral Springs High School | Vance T. Simmons
J.P. Taravella High School |
| En Yinka K. Boyd
Piper High School | Samantha J. Garber
Hollywood Hills High School | Paula Leticia Lopez
Beverly Hills High School | Ayla Spector
Hillandale High School |
| Jerry D. Brant
Crescenta High School | Kirk B. Glendon
Pompano Beach High School | Tiffany Louise
St. Lucie West Community High School | Jessie N. Steward
Hillandale High School |
| Mario A. Bruno
Coral Springs High School | Drew A. Goldfarb
William T. McFalls Vo-Tech HS | David Luciano
Hillandale High School | Mark P. Swobopy
Olympia High School |
| Ashley V. Burton
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. | Andra Gonzalez
Olympia High School | Dana H. Mack
Pompano Beach High School | Michael H. Thomas
St. Lucie West Community High School |
| Layla J. Cahill
South Fork High School | Michal R. Green
Blanche Bay High School | Andres E. Maldonado
Atlantic Technical Magnet School | Sherrille B. Thompson
Pompano Beach High School |
| Michael E. Calvo
Tillich Park Academy | Dexter L. Groves
Pompano Beach High School | Shannon L. McClanahan
Pompano Beach High School | Elvin G. Torres
Blanche Bay High School |
| Alfredo A. Caramelli
South Broward High School | Chelsey M. Guerrier
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. | Andrew B. Mougler
Coconut Creek High School | Early M. Ulmer
Atlantic High School |
| Cheryll Chadimogoo
South Plantation High School | Jarrod C. Hamilton
Pompano Beach High School | Guadalupe Mendez
Hollywood Hills High School | Kristen D. Vary
College Academy FL Co. |
| Alexander K. Cherin
South Broward High School | Tiffany D. Havortack
Westview High School | Paulina J. Ouyang
South Broward High School | Brittany M. VanEtten
Martin County High School |
| Shatika Choudhry
Fort Pierce Westwood High School | Kenny K. Hou
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. | Steven C. Pair
McArthur High School | Tavaria B. Wiley
Pompano Beach High School |
| Kristy L. Clark
Jensen Beach High School | Lacey Isaacs
Hillandale High School | Linsey D. Palt
Blanche Bay High School | Samantha E. Whyms
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. |
| Robbert Cleveland
William T. McFalls Vo-Tech HS | Marcus Jackson
Pompano Beach High School | Anthony J. Piscarelli
Fort Lauderdale High School | Tavis T. Winsor
Fort Pierce Westwood High School |
| Douglas Condonghans
NOVA Ctr. For Applied Res. & De. | Christopher D. Jackson
Pompano Beach High School | David Paul
Pompano Beach High School | Laura M. Wright
Lauder Park Academy |
| Whitney J. Das Neves
Fort Pierce Central High School | Jayashri Kishor
Lauder Park Academy | Tracy Perrin-Bussaniti
Plantation High School | Jim J. Wu
South Broward High School |