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## Miami Cubans remember 'Bay of Pigs'

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## MIAMI CUBANS REMEMBER 'BAY OF PIGS'

By HAMPTON DUNN

MIAMI --- Atop the six-sided column at S.W. Eighth Street (Tamiami Trail) and 13th Avenue is a perpetual flame. It's been burning since June 1971 when Cuban exiles living here dedicated the handsome monument in memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion ten years before.

Blonde, 9-year-old Rebecca Guerra lit the flame that day and Miami Mayor David Kennedy and U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles made speeches. President Richard Nixon cabled his best wishes.

The Miami Herald noted editorially that "Sorrow and pride will mingle in the heart of everyone who sees the monument . . . The sadness will be for the 103 Cubans and four Americans killed in battle in Cuban April 17, 1961. The pride will be for the courage displayed by them and their 1,113 fellow volunteers in the 2506th Assault Brigade."

The brigade set out to liberate Cuba from Communism. The landing place was Playa Giron, also known as the Bay of Pigs.

The Herald editorial dedicating, in a way, the monument also had this to say: "Many other lives have been lost by Cubans seeking freedom from the modern tyranny in their homeland. A suitable memorial should be raised here to all who drowned or were machine-gunned while trying to cross the Strait of Florida.

"Such monuments speak to native-born citizens of the United States as well as to refugees from Cuba. They are enduring reminders that freedom is infinitely precious, worth defending, if need be, with one's own lifeblood.

