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Miami's salute to good neighbors to south

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MIAMI --- This city is the gateway to Latin America and has strong ties with our neighbors to the South.

The people here wanted to create a tangible sign of good will and lasting friendship to let the world know its warm feeling for Pan America. So it was the attractive Torch of Friendship monument was erected at one of the most conspicuous spots in Miami --- in Bayfront Park alongside busy Biscayne Boulevard.

Feature of the layout is a torch with a perpetual flame, atop an 18-foot obelisk. Natural gas provides fuel for the flame which burns continuously.

The city’s warm expression of hope and peace is enhanced with the backgrounding eight-foot-high, 40-foot long curved stone wall. Imbedded in this are the seals of each of the American republics. Native stone quarried from the Florida Keys was used in the construction of both the shaft and the wall.

The Torch of Friendship was acted in 1960. After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the monument was dedicated to the memory of the late President.