

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE!

THANK YOU RAYMOND FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU ALL TODAY AT THIS SPECIAL EVENT. I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING THE RODRIGUEZ-TORRES FAMILY FOR SOME TIME AND LIKE ALL OF US, MY FAMILY FOLLOWED BELLA'S STORY AND INSPIRATIONAL BATTLE FOR YEARS.

BELLA'S LIFE AND LEGACY MADE AN IMPACT ON MIAMI-DADE COUNTY *AND ON THE WORLD.*

INDEED, THE WAY SHE CARRIED HERSELF DESPITE ANY CHALLENGE SHE FACED INSPIRED SO MANY TO "LIVE LIKE BELLA".

AND THAT IS A PROFOUND LEGACY FOR ANYONE TO LEAVE, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR A HAPPY, BIG-HEARTED 10-YEAR OLD WHO NEVER LET LIFE'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES DEFEAT HER.

NOW, THE WORDS: "LIVE LIKE BELLA" MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

FOR SOME, IT MEANS TO SAVOR LIFE, EMBRACE IT, LIVE COURAGEOUSLY WITHOUT FEAR.

YET AS WE'VE ALL COME TO LEARN, TO TRULY LIVE LIKE BELLA MEANS TO SERVE OTHERS.

AS RAYMOND AND SHANNAH HAVE SHARED WITH ME AND MY WIFE LOURDES PRIVATELY, AND AS WE WERE ALL WITNESSES TO, BELLA ALWAYS HAD A GREATER CONCERN FOR OTHERS.

HER INNOCENCE AND UNWAVERING FAITH WHILE FACING THE UNIMAGINABLE IS WHAT INSPIRED ALL OF US.

BUT BELLA DID NOT JUST INSPIRE US - SHE INSPIRED HER FAMILY TO START THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION WHICH EMBODIES BELLA'S MESSAGE OF SERVING OTHERS.

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY WE CAN SEE MANY EXAMPLES OF WHEN A GROUP OF DETERMINED PEOPLE CHOOSE TO TURN TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH. THIS CASE, THIS FAMILY, AND THIS FOUNDATION IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF PRECISELY THAT - *CHOOSING TO TURN TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH.*

THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION HAS NOT ONLY ACCOMPLISHED MANY IMPRESSIVE THINGS TO ADVANCE RESEARCH FOR CANCER IN THE LAST 24 MONTHS, BUT IT HAS ALSO ASSISTED FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY DURING TREATMENT AND EVEN AFTER THEIR CHILDREN HAVE PASSED.

LIVE LIKE BELLA HAS ALSO INCREASED AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER WHICH IS SO CRITICALLY IMPORTANT.

I WILL SHARE WITH YOU SOME STRIKING STATISTICS:

EVERY 3 MINUTES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD A CHILD IS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER.

EVERY DAY IN THE UNITED STATES 46 CHILDREN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. FOR PERSPECTIVE, JUST PICTURE TWO CLASS ROOMS FILLED WITH CHILDREN,

AND EVERY DAY IN THE UNITED STATES, SEVEN CHILDREN DIE FROM CANCER. TRAGICALLY, IT IS THE #1 KILLER OF CHILDREN.

THAT IS WHY THE WORK OF THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION IS SO IMPORTANT AND WHY WE MUST SUPPORT IT.

THE TRUTH IS AS MIAMIANS WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN LIVE LIKE BELLA. PRESENT HERE TODAY ARE FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT REPRESENT OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH FLORIDA.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN UNIQUE SET OF CHALLENGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE.

IN ADDITION TO WHAT I'VE MENTIONED, THERE IS CURRENTLY A DRAFT BILL ENTITLED "THE BELLA BILL TO ADVANCE PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH" WHICH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF MIAMI PASSED RESOLUTIONS URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- WE NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN HAVE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY AT NEW, INNOVATIVE AND LESS TOXIC TREATMENTS FOR CANCER.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MIAMI-DADE IS LEADING THE CHARGE FOR AND IF SUCCESSFUL, OUR EFFORTS WILL BENEFIT OF GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

BELLA GAVE US ALL A GREAT EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW AND I FEEL HONORED THAT ALL OF US ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP BELLA'S FRIENDS, THE OTHER CHILDREN BATTLING CANCER.

I KNOW OUR HOPE IS TO SEE THE DAY WHEN CHILDHOOD CANCER IS A TREATABLE AND CURABLE DISEASE.

TWO WEEKS FROM NOW ON MAY 28TH, MANY AROUND THE WORLD WILL REFLECT ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF BELLA'S PASSING.

WHILE HER LOSS IS VERY SIGNIFICANT, HER LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE GREAT WORK OF THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION AND THE INSPIRATION SHE SERVES FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND YES, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

SO IN RECOGNITION OF THIS, IT IS MY PLEASURE AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO PRESENT

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION NAMING MAY 28TH,
"LIVE LIKE BELLA DAY" IN MIAMI DADE COUNTY.**

***MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY WE ALL LIVE
LIKE BELLA.***

