

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION AND FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS EACH YEAR.

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE 14TH ANNUAL MIAMI MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON PRESS CONFERENCE.

THE MIAMI MARATHON ON SUNDAY WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BECAUSE OF THE EVENT ORGANIZERS WHO ARE HERE WITH US THIS MORNING. WE HAVE MORE THAN 24,000 RUNNERS REPRESENTING ALL 50 STATES AND 81 COUNTRIES!

I APPLAUD YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO ENCOURAGING OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO GET MOVING THROUGH EXERCISE AND FITNESS.

AS MENTIONED, THE MIAMI MARATHON & HALF MARATHON HAVE BECOME A DESTINATION RACE FOR RUNNERS WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF MIAMI.

THIS YEAR, 25 PERCENT OF OUR RUNNERS ARE FROM OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES -- REPRESENTING COUNTRIES LIKE MEXICO,

**VENEZUELA, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
BRAZIL AND GUATEMALA.**

**OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IS UP FROM
21 PERCENT LAST YEAR -- WHICH MAKES PERFECT
SENSE...**

**BECAUSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OUTSIDE IN
JANUARY, WHAT BETTER PLACE TO DO IT THAN IN
MIAMI?**

**AND THIS MORNING, WE'RE HERE TO RECOGNIZE
SOME OF THESE EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL
ATHLETES AND PRESENT THEM WITH
"DISTINGUISHED VISITOR CERTIFICATES."**

**I MUST GIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO COLOMBIA
FOR SENDING US ALMOST 1,000 RUNNERS THIS
YEAR -- THE MOST OF ANY COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE
U.S.!**

**MIAMI-DADE HAS DEFINITELY BECOME THE RACE
CAPITAL FOR RUNNERS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN.**

**AND THAT'S GREAT NEWS BECAUSE THIS INFLUX OF
RUNNERS WILL GENERATE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF ABOUT \$65 MILLION.**

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE THOUSANDS OF RUNNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MIAMI MARATHON FOR PROMOTING HEALTH AND FITNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL AND I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK ON SUNDAY!

NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE ELITE RUNNERS WHO ARE WITH US THIS MORNING.

ONE OF THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANY RUNNER IS TO COMPLETE A MARATHON. AND IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF PERSON WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF WILLPOWER AND DETERMINATION TO UNDERTAKE THIS FEAT.

YOU'RE EACH AN EXAMPLE OF HOW ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE -- WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND DETERMINATION.

YOU INSPIRE ALL OF US TO SET OUR GOALS HIGH, AND ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS.

ELITE RUNNERS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS,

**IT'S MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT YOU WITH OUR
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR CERTIFICATES...**

[PRESENT CERTIFICATES]

**ELITE RUNNERS, ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION
RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WELCOME TO
OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY!**

GOOD LUCK ON SUNDAY!

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL
AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY!**

[SPANISH REMARKS]

MUY BUENOS DÍAS DAMAS Y CABALLEROS!

**ES UN PLACER DARLES LA BIENVENIDA A LA DÉCIMO
CUARTA CONFERENCIA DE PRENSA DE LA MARATÓN
Y MEDIA MARATÓN DE MIAMI.**

**ESTE AÑO, 25 PORCIENTO DE LOS PARTICIPANTES
VIENEN DE OTROS PAÍSES COMO MÉXICO,
VENEZUELA, CANADÁ, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
BRASIL Y GUATEMALA.**

Y ESTA MAÑANA ESTAMOS AQUÍ PARA RECONOCER A LOS ATLETAS EXTRANJEROS MÁS SOBRESALIENTES DE ESTA COMPETENCIA.

DEBO RESALTAR LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE COLOMBIA QUE ESTE AÑO NOS ENVIÓ CASI MIL COMPETIDORES. EL SEGUNDO PAÍS CON MAYOR REPRESENTACIÓN DESPUÉS DE ESTADOS UNIDOS.

ANTES DE CONCLUIR QUIERO AGRADECER A TODOS A LOS QUE APOYAN ESTA IMPORTANTE CAUSA DE PROMOVER LA SALUD Y BIENESTAR DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

USTEDES SIN LUGAR A DUDAS SON UNA INSPIRACIÓN PARA TODOS NOSOTROS. SON UN EJEMPLO DE COMO TODO ES POSIBLE CON FUERZA DE VOLUNTAD Y DETERMINACIÓN.

MUY BUENA SUERTE EL DOMINGO Y QUE DIOS LOS BENDIGA!