

YOUR EXCELLENCIES...

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - VIZCAYA MUSEUM AND GARDENS.

WHAT YOU SEE AROUND YOU WAS BUILT AS A SUMMER HOME FOR INDUSTRIALIST JAMES DEERING.

IT WAS NAMED TO EVOKE THE WATERS OF BISCAYNE BAY WHICH BORDER MIAMI'S SHORELINE.

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, VIZCAYA HAS BEEN A TREASURED JEWEL OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

IT'S A PLACE WHERE VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN EXPERIENCE THE GRANDEUR AND MAJESTY OF THIS AMAZING ESTATE AND ITS GARDENS.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT VIZCAYA IS THAT WHILE IT LOOKS VERY OLD...

IT'S A RELATIVELY YOUNG BUILDING.

IN A LARGER SENSE, WHILE THE MIAMI YOU'VE SEEN IS AN INCREDIBLY VIBRANT WORLD-CLASS COSMOPOLITAN CITY...

IT'S ALSO A RELATIVELY YOUNG CITY, JUST OVER 100 YEARS OLD.

THE DRAMATIC GROWTH WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IS A RESULT OF PEOPLE COMING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...

BRINGING THEIR DREAMS AND TALENTS, MAKING US WHO WE ARE TODAY.

MIAMI IS A CITY WHERE OVER 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

WE HAVE A LARGE GROUP OF CONSULAR OFFICES, SOME OF WHICH ARE FROM COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE TODAY.

AND AS I MENTIONED THIS MORNING TO THE DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADORS VISITING US...

NOT ONLY ARE WE THE "GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS," BUT WE ARE EXPANDING THIS STATUS TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND BEYOND.

WHAT BETTER EXAMPLE OF WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT THAN THE STUDENTS FROM THE MIAMI ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL WHO PLAYED DURING TONIGHT'S DINNER --- LED BY THE SCHOOL'S FOUNDER, ALFREDO DE LA ROSA.

THIS SCHOOL SERVES 700 CULTURALLY AND SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DIVERSE STUDENTS FROM COMMUNITIES ACROSS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

LET'S PLEASE GIVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO THESE BRIGHT YOUNG STUDENTS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE THIS EVENING.

IN THE FACES OF THESE STUDENTS, IN THEIR TALENT, AND THE OPPORTUNITY THEY REPRESENT...

WE SEE THE FACES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND THE HOPE FOR OUR BETTER FUTURE.

ALTHOUGH THEIR BACKGROUNDS REFLECT MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND ETHNICITIES, HERE IN MIAMI, THEY ALL LIVE TOGETHER AS ONE.

AND THAT IS THE MESSAGE I HOPE YOU TAKE WITH YOU FROM YOUR VISIT.

THIS IS WHAT WE ARE...

AN OPEN AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY, ALWAYS
WELCOMING OTHERS...

AND OFFERING NEW HOPE - WHERE THE AMERICAN
DREAM IS FULLY ALIVE.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES...

PLEASE ACCEPT WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS A MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY DISTINGUISHED VISITOR
RECOGNITION, EXPRESSING OUR HEARTFELT
GRATITUDE FOR YOUR VISIT TO MIAMI.

WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE, AND WE
LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RETURN.

THANK YOU.

