

MADAME CHAIR, COMMISSIONER MONESTIME,
FRIENDS...

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE THIS
AFTERNOON FOR THIS VERY HAPPY OCCASION.

JUST THIS PAST MONDAY, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF
ADDRESSING A GROUP OF AMBASSADORS FROM
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

THEY WERE VISITING US HERE IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY AS PART OF THE EXPERIENCE AMERICA
PROGRAM RUN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

AS I WAS PREPARING TO SPEAK TO THEM, I
LEARNED THAT THE PROPER PROTOCOL IS TO
ADDRESS A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR AS "YOUR
EXCELLENCY..."

THAT PHRASE COMES TO MIND WHEN SPEAKING OF
SOMEONE WHOSE ENTIRE LIFE AND CAREER HAS
BEEN BUILT ON EXCELLENCE.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER PERSON TO BECOME
OUR FIRST EVER SPECIAL AMBASSADOR OF MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY THAN EMILIO ESTEFAN.

WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID ABOUT SOMEONE WE ALL
KNOW?

HE IS SOMEONE WHO REPRESENTS EVERYTHING
MIAMI IS ALL ABOUT...

THE IMMIGRANT SPIRIT OF PERSEVERANCE...

THE BLENDING OF CULTURES TO FORM
SOMETHING UNIQUE...

THE EMBODIMENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM...

THE PROMISE THAT WITH HARD WORK AND
TALENT...

ONE CAN GO FROM BEING A POLITICAL REFUGEE
TO BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
ENTERTAINERS AND BUSINESSMEN IN THE WORLD.

THIS IS WHO EMILIO ESTEFAN IS...

HIS LIFE EXPERIENCE IS EMBLEMATIC OF WHAT
MIAMI IS ALL ABOUT.

SO WHETHER IT'S YOUR EXCELLENCY OR YOUR
HONOR, THESE WILL ALL BE FITTING TITLES FOR
EMILIO ESTEFAN.

BUT FOR US, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT
TITLE IS - MIAMIAN...

AND OF COURSE --- OUR FRIEND.

EMILIO, I KNOW YOU WILL REPRESENT US WELL,
AND MAKE US ALL PROUD!

SO, ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT
COUNTY...

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. AMBASSADOR!

MADAME CHAIRWOMAN...

