

THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, JACK.

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. HOW'S EVERYBODY DOING TODAY?

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE WITH YOU ALL AT TAMAMI PARK.

SO, THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO SHARE THIS SPECIAL GROUNDBREAKING WITH YOU.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSE FELIX DIAZ, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH US.

SENATOR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PARKS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE MARLINS PRESIDENT DAVID SAMSON, VICE-PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARLINS FOUNDATION ALFREDO MESA, AND CO-FOUNDERS OF THE MIRACLE LEAGUE KARL STURGE AND RAY ROCHA.

WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION AND HARD WORK TO GET THIS

PARK BUILT FOR THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. SO, MY THANKS TO YOU.

WE ALSO HAVE THE HONOR OF HAVING JEFF CONINE, TWO-TIME ALL-STAR AND TWO-TIME MARLINS WORLD SERIES CHAMPION, AND BILLY THE MARLIN HERE WITH US THIS AFTERNOON. THANK YOU, JEFF AND BILLY!

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, I WANT TO THANK YOU, JACK, FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITY AS DIRECTOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS.

LET'S GIVE EVERYONE WHO PLAYED A PART IN THIS PROJECT'S SUCCESS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

YOU KNOW, I FIRST RAN FOR MAYOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE A BETTER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I HAVE SIX GRANDCHILDREN NOW, AND I REALLY ENJOY BEING THEIR GRANDFATHER.

BUT IN ADDITION TO DOING OBVIOUS THINGS – LIKE MAKING SURE WE HAVE GOOD JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS, A SAFE COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN, GOOD PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, I ALSO WANTED TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AN EVEN GREATER PLACE TO PLAY...

A COMMUNITY WHERE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN HAVE BEAUTIFUL SPACES TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER.

SO, TODAY, WITH THE BALLPARK THAT WE'RE BREAKING GROUND ON, I THINK WE'VE COME ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACCOMPLISHING THAT GOAL.

AND GIVING ALL MIAMIANS A PLACE TO PLAY IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS GOAL.

THAT'S WHY I'M ESPECIALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS BALLPARK. BECAUSE WE'RE EXTENDING

OPPORTUNITIES TO CHILDREN WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE HAD A PLACE TO LEARN TO PLAY BALL.

AS JACK MENTIONED, THIS IS A PLACE WHERE ABOUT 68,000 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WILL LEARN TO PLAY BASEBALL ON A FIELD DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY WITH THEIR NEEDS IN MIND.

I THINK THAT ALSO DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

SO, KIDS AND PARENTS, WE HAVE A LOT TO BE PUMPED UP ABOUT TODAY.

AND I DON'T WANT TO DELAY THIS GROUNDBREAKING ANY LONGER.

BECAUSE THE QUICKER WE BREAK GROUND, THE QUICKER WE CAN CUT THE RIBBON, AND THESE KIDS CAN START PLAYING BALL!

AND WE CAN ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME CHEERING THEM ON!

**YES, I WILL BE BACK TO WATCH THESE KIDS
PLAY BALL.**

**SO, THANK YOU AGAIN, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR
TIME TODAY.**

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

