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**Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee ☆ APRIL 6 & 7, 2011**

# ATKINS

Presents

## ***Miami-Dade County Days Awards Luncheon***

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011**

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

KLEMAN PLAZA  
306 South Duval Street

***OUR APPRECIATION GOES TO***

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
LEAGUE OF CITIES**

***FOR SPONSORSHIP OF OUR AWARDS***

## Carl Hiaasen

The Miami Herald  
Monday, May 1, 1989



# Dade Day: Power tools on parade

This is an exciting week in Tallahassee. Everyone is awaiting the arrival of "Dade County Day."

The purpose of Dade County Day is to remind legislators from Okaloosa and Santa Rosa that there is a Dade County. To accomplish this, the Capitol grounds will be transformed into a festive and colorful showcase featuring many of our best-known attractions.

The Seaquarium, Monkey Jungle, Vizcaya, Fairchild Garden and the Coral Castle are among many popular tourist spots worthy of mention, but that's not all. To counter the publicity surrounding the opening of rival Disney World's new movie studio, the folks who organized Dade County Day pulled out all the stops.

For example, tentative plans call for a boat to be displayed at the Capitol — a real 36-foot cabin cruiser! Apparently many of the legislators have never seen a boat before, so this will be a huge thrill.

The agriculture industry is set to

provide displays of real Dade County avocados and limes, in addition to "mechanical fruit." I'm not sure what the mechanical fruit exhibit does, but it's probably a lot like Space Mountain, only with a citrus theme.

To celebrate other made-in-Dade products, Burger King is scheduled to deliver a three-foot-wide hamburger and a mess of three-foot-long French fries. Mmmmm, you can almost smell it from here.

**T**he best part of the Dade County Day festivities are the decorations. The theme of the exhibit is: "Dade County, Partners in Building Florida's Future." Here's a sneak preview, right off the drawing board:

"Legislators will be greeted by a moving robot with construction sounds & holding a sign with the Dade Day logo. . . . The entire area will be surrounded with construction material . . . 55-gallon drums, ladders, wood, construction signs, power tools, rotating displays of three-foot tools . . . pliers, saw, hammers, tape measure, T-square, compass, wood plane."

I know what you're thinking: How do you top an exhibit of pliers and power tools for sheer excitement?

Try giving away free hard hats! That's right, free hard hats. Then surround the entire panorama with actual Bob's Barricades, flown in especially for the celebration (this is the absolute truth).

Few could disagree that what you'll see in the Capitol rotunda this week is an authentic re-creation of life in South Florida — one big, chaotic construction site. All that's missing is a toy bulldozer and some mangroves.

**H**igher education will be showcased by giant textbooks listing the names of every local college and university. To underscore its growing reputation for academic achievement, the University of Miami will be represented by a five-foot replica of an ibis, which is a bird that eats fish and snails.

Sports also gets a share of the spotlight, from a Miami Heat basketball hoop to a Dolphins football helmet to a Doral Ryder putting green. You're wondering: What, no gun range? No cockfights? Hard to explain, but my guess is that they're saving those for next year's gala.

No tribute to Dade would be complete without a flashy tourism promotion, and this one will be no exception. Among the items scheduled for display: a three-foot tennis ball, a three-foot baseball, a surfboard, palm trees and "beach umbrellas with sand bases." Boy, those Tallahassee travel agents better brace for a stampede.

To show off how modern Dade County is, transportation officials will present a model of Metrorail. Perhaps the model train will even be pulling tiny half-empty cars. This would be an excellent way to compare the breezy, uncrowded Metrorail experience with the noisy, tourist-clogged Disney monorail.

Our unique cultural mix will be in the spotlight, too. At lunchtime on Dade County Day, the lobby of the Capitol will fill with the aroma of several metric tons of paella. Meanwhile, the Miccosukee Indians will bring a live Florida alligator and allow anyone to wrestle it! This could be great fun, especially if some Miccosukee prankster were to substitute a wild foul-tempered alligator for the tame lazy one.

I welcome you to the 22nd annual Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee. Carl Hiaasen's column, from our first "Dade Day in Tallahassee," brings back many memories to those of you who joined us in 1989 for this extraordinary event.

Today, Miami-Dade County Days maintains the same focus as we had in 1989 — to showcase the municipalities of the largest county in Florida, as well as the people who live and work in our communities, during the Florida Legislative Session. In an ever-changing environment, we are resilient, productive and proud to call Miami-Dade County home.

We thank you all for being a part of this tremendous effort for the past 22 years. Simply stated, *YOU Make Dade Days Happen!!*

Sincerely,

Monty Trainer  
Chairman

# ***PROGRAM***

- WELCOME:** Chairman Monty Trainer  
Coordinators Bob Levy & Dianne Raulson  
Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll  
Mayor John Marks, *City of Tallahassee*
- INVOCATION:** Reverend Robert Jakoby, Chaplain of the Day  
*Baptist Health South Florida, Director of Chaplaincy*
- PRESENTATION OF COLORS:** Amos P. Godby High School AFJROTC Color Guard  
*From the City of Tallahassee*  
Cadets Emily Slayden, Fyrene Booth, James Warren, Matthew Liligreen and Samantha Harvey  
Alternate: Cadet Krystal Siders
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Dona Altemus, *Tie & Scarf Design Winner*  
*New World School of the Arts*
- NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Skylar Miles - *Magnet & Gifted Program,*  
*Howard Middle School - Ocala, Florida*

## **LUNCHEON**

- SPONSORS:** Victor Herrera, *ATKINS - LUNCHEON SPONSOR*  
Richard Kuper, *Miami-Dade County League of Cities,*  
*PLATINUM & GOLD SPONSOR AWARDS*  
Chairman Monty Trainer  
Coordinators Bob Levy & Dianne Raulson

## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DAYS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

### **2011 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**Cristine O'Hara**

*Language Arts Department Chair, Palmetto Middle School*

*Our appreciation goes out to our Metro Dade Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1403 volunteers  
and our photographers, Scherley Busch & Placido Debasa.*

# ***Miami-Dade County Days 2011 Awards***

## **MONTY TRAINER CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

**Karen Aronowitz**

*President, United Teachers of Dade - "Speaking Up For Public Education"*

**Major James DiBernardo**

*Miami-Dade Police, Community Affairs Bureau*

## **COLONEL (RET.) LETTIE BIEN "FREEDOM" AWARD**

**Raul Mas**

## **DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM "DIVERSITY" AWARD**

**Honorable Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall**

*Miami-Dade County School Board Member*

## **JOHN F. COSGROVE "FOUNDERS" AWARD**

**Barbara Levenson - Judge (ret.) & Author**

## **ELAINE GORDON "YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE" AWARD**

**Jess McCarty**

*Assistant County Attorney. Chief of Government Affairs Section*

*Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office*

## **HONORARY MEMBER OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

**Representative Denise Grimsley - Florida House of Representatives**

## **NANCY HUGHES "COMMUNITY COMMITMENT" AWARD**

**Linda Quick**

*President, South Florida Healthcare & Hospital Association*

## **RUSS MARCHNER "OUTSTANDING MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL SERVICE" AWARD**

**Councilman Michael Blynn - City of North Miami**

## **HELEN MILLER "I'M BLESSED" AWARD**

**Thelma Gibson**

**Commissioner Ronald A. Brise – Florida Public Service Commission**

## **KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE CRIME FIGHTERS AWARD**

**Honorable Steve Leifman**

*Special Advisor on Criminal Justice & Mental Health - Supreme Court of Florida*

## **SENATOR RON SILVER "DEAN" AWARD**

**Senator Larcenia Bullard - Florida State Senate**

## **NESTOR TORRES "MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DAYS AMBASSADOR OF THE ARTS" AWARD**

**Dean Daniel Lewis - New World School of the Arts**

## **SHERMAN WINN "I CARE" AWARD**

**Honorable Elaine & Philip Bloom**

## **"MAGIC CITY MOMENT"**

**Centennial Anniversary of the 11th Judicial Court of Appeals**

**Barry University – 70th Anniversary**

**Baptist Health South Florida – 70th Anniversary**

**Homestead Hospital – 70th Anniversary**



Judge Philip Bloom and Sidney Weisburd, former Miami Beach Commissioner.



Representative John Cosgrove, founder of Dade Day, and Florida Supreme Judge Rosemary Barkett.



Commissioner Charles Dusseau and Vice Mayor of Opa Locka Helen Miller.



Opa Locka Mayor Robert Ingram, labor attorney Don Slesnick and Tony Lonzo of the Police Benevolent Association.



Kurt Nystrom, Tracy Hancock and Dr. John Cordrey of the Beacon Council.



Bal Harbor Mayor Estelle Stern and State Representative Elaine Gordon.



Metro-Dade Commissioner Sherman Winn, State Treasurer Tom Gallagher and Attorney General Bob Butterworth.



Metro-Dade Commissioner Sherman Winn and Florida Supreme Judge Ben Overton.



**Fiesta time!**  
Dade County officials and legislators serve up... Photo courtesy of the TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT - May, 1990  
...dishes of guests in the Capitol courtyard Thursday...  
...goblets of a large vat of chicken paella to fest... The Spanish rice dish was cooked to celebrate...  
... "Dade Day" of the Legislature. Guests were also...  
...entertained with country and Latin music.

## **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Miami-Dade County  
Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council  
Sky King

## **GOLD SPONSORS**

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Flagler Development  
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Metro Dade Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1403  
Miami-Dade County League of Cities  
Scherley Busch Photography  
Ultra Aviation  
United Teachers of Dade

# **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DAYS THANKS OUR 2011 LIAISON BOARD**

## **HONORARY CHAIRMAN**

**Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera** - *Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation*

## **MIAMI-DADE DAYS CHAIRMAN**

**Monty Trainer**

## **CHAIRMAN EMERITUS**

**Senator Sherman Winn**  
*(1923 - 2008)*

## **DADE DAYS FOUNDER EMERITUS**

**Representative John F. Cosgrove**  
*(1949 - 2006)*

## **LEGISLATIVE LIAISONS**

**Senator Anitere Flores**  
*Vice Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation*

**Commissioner Joe A. Martinez**  
*Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman*

## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Joe A. Martinez**  
*Chairman*

**Bruno A. Barreiro**  
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**Audrey Edmonson**  
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**Javier D. Souto**

## **MIAMI-DADE DAYS LIAISONS**

**Humberto P. Alonso, Jr.**  
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**Mary Finlan**  
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Florida City  
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**Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya**  
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Public Schools*

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& Eidson, PA*

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League of Cities*

**William Talbert, III**  
*Greater Miami  
Convention  
& Visitors Bureau*

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*Ultra Aviation*

## **MIAMI-DADE DAYS COORDINATORS**

**Robert M. Levy**  
*850.681.0254*

**Dianne W. Raulson**  
*305.944.2053*



Photo courtesy of the TAMPA TRIBUNE - May, 1989 Tribune photograph by COLIN HACKLEY

**Hardhat area**

Four Miami-area representatives clown around with hard hats they were given Wednesday for Dade County Days. Getting the hats before the start of the

general session were, from left, Reps. Susan Guber, James Burke and John Cosgrove, all Miami Democrats, and Rep. Elaine Bloom, D-North Miami Beach.

**SILVER SPONSORS**

- |                                     |                                |
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| City of Homestead                   | Village of Palmetto Bay        |
| Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade |                                |

**BRONZE SPONSORS**

- |                              |                                  |
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| Monty's Raw Bar & Restaurant | Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell, P.A. |
| L&M Engraving & Trophy       | SFM Services                     |
| MillerCoors                  | Simply Water                     |
| Pollo Tropical               | Village of Pinecrest             |

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- |   |                                   |
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| Associated Builders & Contractors         | Florida Farm Bureau               |
| Bob's Barricades                          | Florida Nurses Association        |
| Budget Truck & Car Rental                 | Gilda Crackers Industries         |
| Chamber South                             | Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson |
| City of Tallahassee                       | Pit Stop Portable Toilets         |
| Dade County Farm Bureau                   | South Florida Messenger Service   |
| Dade County Police Benevolent Association | Waste Management                  |
| Financial Service Centers of Florida      |                                   |

*We have made every effort to list all of the sponsors who have made Miami-Dade County Days 2011 possible.*