

*John F. Cosgrove Hwy Unveiling, August 6, Florida's Turnpike in Miami-Dade County – Aug 5, 2008*

Presented by Mayor Eugene P. Flinn, Village of Palmetto Bay

Thank you, Senator Bullard, for allowing me the opportunity to speak at this momentous event. All of South-Dade owes you a debt of gratitude, not only for being supportive of us over the years, but, more importantly, for sponsoring this wonderful tribute to the late senator John Cosgrove.

John and I go way back. I remember first meeting him when he came to my father's first campaign for the house of representatives, and was the keynote speaker.

Later, he addressed my high-school's civics class. I'll never forget John's advice. He told us: "Don't go into government service because you'll either have to go to law school or have to sweep streets." Having been in law school, I'm still not sure whether I made the right choice.

A more recent memory was when I introduced John shortly after he was elected the first mayor of Cutler Bay. I said "John may be the junior mayor, but he is the elder statesman" -- then I quickly ducked! You know how we Irish love to fight.

In all seriousness, John was the most dedicated public servant I've ever had the fortune to meet. But, even more important than his

service to the public was his commitment to his family. Bernie, you know that John is smiling and laughing from heaven right now – proud of you and your lovely children.

This is an everlasting monument, one that I hope expresses our belief that John Cosgrove's memory continues to live on within our hearts.