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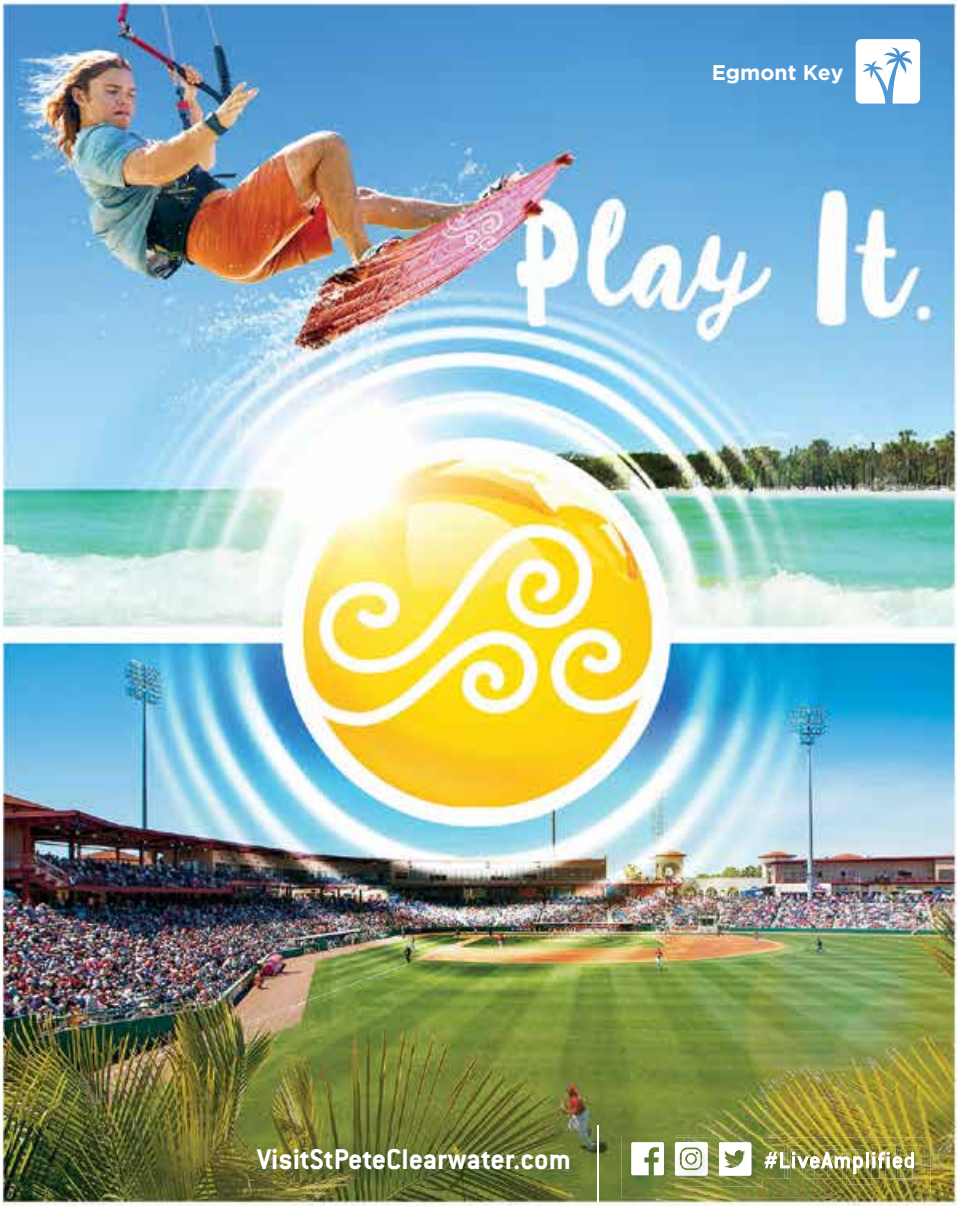
Fanatics

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
TROPICANA FIELD, ST. PETERSBURG

FLORIDA SPORTS FOUNDATION

Florida Grapefruit League

FLORIDA SPORTS Hall of Fame

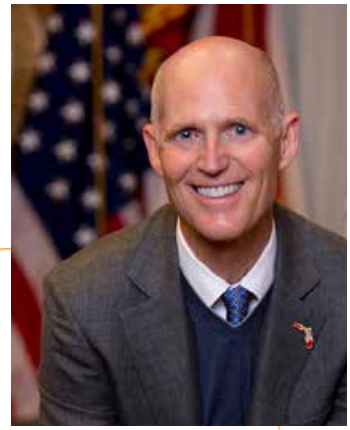


ST.PETE CLEARWATER

AMERICA'S BEST BEACHES SALUTE AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME

From spring training with the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater or the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, to following the boys of summer with the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Pete, get in the swing of the season in St. Pete/Clearwater. And our beaches are a hit, too.

LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

February 15, 2018

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2018 Governor's Baseball Dinner and thank you for joining us as we celebrate one of Florida's most time-honored traditions, the opening of Major League Baseball Spring Training.

This year's event marks a return to St. Petersburg and Pinellas County, an area of Florida that has an amazing history with the Florida Grapefruit League since the early 1900s. We are honored to continue this historic event at Tropicana Field.

It is an honor to also welcome Commissioner of Baseball Rob Manfred, along with representatives from many of the 15 teams who annually train in Florida, including former players who spent time throughout their careers at Florida Spring Training sites.

During the 2018 season, please take some time to enjoy the 12 Florida Grapefruit League sites that attract more than 1.5 million fans to our state each year and provide Florida with a $753 million economic impact. Florida has experienced record numbers of visitors during each of the past six years, which is great news for Florida families. With 1.4 million jobs making up our growing tourism industry, we are continuing to grow, making Florida the global destination for jobs so future generations can have great opportunities to live their dreams.

Together, we are helping make Florida the best place in the world to work, live, and raise a family. Play Ball!

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

@FLGovScott
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249
www.FLGov.com

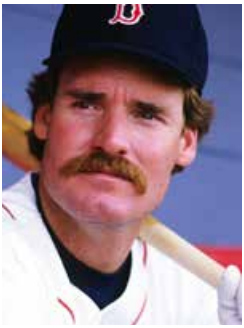
TONIGHT'S ★ ALL ★ STAR ★ LINEUP ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tino **Martinez**

A Tampa native and a 1988 Olympic Gold Medalist, Constantino "Tino" Martinez played 16 years in the Major Leagues with four different teams, where he compiled a .271 career batting average with 339 home runs and 1,271 RBI. Acquired by the New York Yankees in 1996 in a trade with the Seattle Mariners, Martinez replaced Don Mattingly as New York's starting first baseman and would go on to help the Yankees win four World Series titles in six seasons. Martinez would be named to two All-Star teams. His best season came in 1997, when he hit .297 and reached career highs with 44 home runs and 141 RBI.

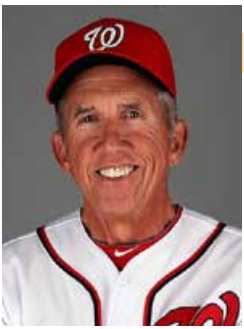
Fred **McGriff**

A native of Tampa, Fred McGriff was one of the game's premiere power hitters of the 1990s. Selected in the ninth round by the New York Yankees in 1981, McGriff quickly rose through the minor leagues and made his major league debut with the Toronto Blue Jays in 1986. McGriff would go on to play 19 seasons in the big leagues with six different teams, where he compiled a .284 career batting average with 493 home runs and 1,550 RBI. McGriff was a five-time All-Star, three-time Silver Slugger recipient and won a World Series title with the Atlanta Braves in 1995. McGriff would slug 30 or more home runs in 10 different seasons and drive in 100 or more runs eight different times, including a career high-tying 106 during an All-Star season for his hometown Tampa Bay Rays in 2000.



Wade **Boggs**

One of the greatest hitters in baseball history, Wade Boggs played 18 seasons for the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays, where he compiled 3,010 career hits to go with a .328 career batting average. A 12-time All-Star, Boggs won five American League batting titles during his storied career and won eight Silver Slugger Awards as the best hitter at his position. He won a World Series championship with the Yankees in 1996. For his career, Boggs averaged 200 hits per season. He failed to hit at least .300 just three times in 18 seasons. Boggs had his number retired by both the Boston Red Sox and Tampa Bay Rays and was a first-ballot Hall of Fame inductee in 2005.



Davey **Johnson**

A native of Orlando, Davey Johnson is one of the few men in major league history to win World Series titles as both a player (Baltimore 1966 & 1970) and as a manager with the New York Mets (1986). Playing 13 seasons in the Major Leagues with four different teams, Johnson was a .261 career hitter with 136 home runs, including a career-high 43 with Atlanta in 1973. He would be named to four all-star teams and win three Golden Glove Awards. In addition to his World Series title with the Mets, Johnson was named Manager of the Year in both leagues, winning that award with Baltimore in 1997 and Washington Nationals in 2012.

TONIGHT'S BATTING ORDER

First Pitch
Jesse Biter, Chair,
Board of Directors,
Florida Sports Foundation

Jeff Mielke, Vice Chair,
Board of Directors,
Florida Sports Foundation

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies
Dave Wills, Radio Voice of the Tampa Bay Rays

Welcome
Tim Ramsberger,
Chief Operating Officer,
Visit St. Pete-Clearwater

The Honorable Ken Welch,
Chair, Pinellas County Commission

Presenting Sponsor
Raphael Peck,
Brand President, Fanatics

Remarks
Rob Manfred, Commissioner of Major League Baseball

Presentation of Colors and National Anthem
U.S. Military Color Guard
Zayna Jebailey

Dinner is Served

Remarks
The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida

Salute to Florida's 2017 Playoff Teams
Minnesota Twins

Boston Red Sox

Washington Nationals

New York Yankees

World Champion Houston Astros

Remarks
Jeff Luhnow, General Manager, Houston Astros

Video Presentation

Special Recognition
Sam Fuld, former major leaguer, Director of Major League Player Information Philadelphia Phillies and founder of T1D Sports Camps

Baseball Legends Roundtable
Introduction by
Barry Smith, President,
Florida Sports Hall of Fame

Wade Boggs

Tino Martinez

Fred McGriff

Davey Johnson

God Bless America
Zayna Jebailey

Closing Remarks
Dave Wills

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dave **Wills**

The Master of Ceremonies for this evening is Dave Wills. For the past 13 years, Wills has broadcast games on the Tampa Bay Rays Radio Network, where he splits color commentator and play-by-play duties with Andy Freed.

Wills came to the Rays from the Chicago White Sox where he spent 11 seasons with their broadcast team hosting the pre- and post-game shows and filling in as a game broadcaster. Prior to that, Wills was play-by-play announcer for the Kane County Cougars (1991-95) and was the radio voice of University of Illinois-Chicago basketball team from 1997-2005. He also hosts pre- and post-game shows for Notre Dame football and was co-host of the Kevin White Show on ESPN Radio 1000-Chicago from 2000-05.

A former college baseball player, Wills graduated from Elmhurst College with a degree in Speech Communications and also coached college baseball at Elmhurst and the University of Chicago.

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

Five Major League Baseball teams who base their spring training operations in the state of Florida participated in the 2017 post-season. Those teams include the wild card Minnesota Twins, the American League East Champion Boston Red Sox, the National League East Champion Washington Nationals, the American League runner-ups New York Yankees, and the 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros. Tonight we recognize these teams for their fine seasons.

MINNESOTA TWINS

Training Site CenturyLink Sports Complex Ft. Myers

2017 Record 85-77, 2nd Wild Card

The Twins surprised a lot of teams in MLB in 2017, winning 85 games and securing the second wild card spot by five games over the Rays, Royals and Angels (80-82). Their season ended in the wild card game as Aaron Judge's two-run homer in the fourth broke open a tight game and propelled the Yankees to an 8-4 win.

BOSTON RED SOX

Training Site JetBlue Park at Fenway South Ft. Myers

2017 Record 93-69, 1st AL East

It came down to the wire, but the Boston Red Sox held off the surging New York Yankees to win the American League East Division by two games. The Red Sox finished with a 93-69 record but lost to the Houston Astros in the American League Divisional Round, three games to one.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Training Site The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach

2017 Record 97-65, 1st NL East

The Nationals ran away with the National League East in 2017, winning the division by 20 games over second-place Miami. That win set up a classic five game series with the Chicago Cubs in the NLDS, for which the Cubs won with a dramatic 9-8 win in Game 5.

NEW YORK YANKEES

Training Site George M. Steinbrenner Field Tampa

2017 Record 91-71, 1st Wild Card

Although finishing second in the AL East, the Yankees easily earned a wild card spot and took advantage of that opportunity. After dispatching Minnesota in the Wild Card game, the Yankees rallied from an 0-2 deficit to win the five-game series against the defending AL Champion Cleveland Indians to advance to the ALCS. The Yankees would eventually be edged by the Houston Astros in a tense seven-game series.

HOUSTON ASTROS

Training Site The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches West Palm Beach

2017 Record 101-61, World Champions

The upstart Astros won an American League best 101 games in 2017 and went into the playoffs firing on all cylinders. But after defeating the Red Sox (3-1) in the opening round, the Astros were taken to the limit by the New York Yankees in the ALCS, four games to three. In one of the most memorable World Series ever, the Astros defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games to claim their first World Series Championship. In the decisive Game 7, the Astros jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead after two innings and veteran pitcher Charlie Morton worked the final four innings to give the Astros the championship.

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