



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2015

Contact: Clay Jenkins
Clay.Jenkins@DallasCounty.org

Ruby Blum
ruby.blum@dallascounty.org
(214) 653-7949

Parkland Hospital Dedication to the People of Dallas County

Please see below the remarks given by Judge Jenkins at the Dedication Ceremony.

As I stand here before you I must stray from the prepared remarks to give honor and glory to God. He is the God of the mountaintops and the valleys. We surely would not be here today had he not carried us through the valley these last five years and so as we stand together on this mountaintop today it is fitting to remember that he is the God of the mountaintops as well.

Of all the challenges we have faced during my time as Dallas County Judge, none has been more difficult, time consuming or important than saving Parkland Hospital and ensuring quality care in this new building for generations to come.

Arguably, my best decision as Dallas County Judge has been to appoint Debbie Branson to the Parkland Board of Managers. Twice unanimously elected by her board peers as Chair of the Board of Managers, Chairwoman Branson was named 2014 National Hospital Trustee of the Year by Modern Healthcare Magazine.

I want to thank each Commissioner I've had the honor of serving with for their devotion to Parkland's mission, retired commissioner Maurine Dickey, current commissioners Dr. Theresa Daniel, Mike Cantrell, John Wiley Price and Dr. Elba Garcia.

Personally and on behalf of the Commissioners Court, I want to thank former Chairwoman Dr. Lauren McDonald, former board members Dr. Roberto de la Cruz, Ms. Cobie Russell and Mr. Eddie Reeves and current board members Pat Gorman, Dr. Scherry Johnson, Jerry Bryant, Dr.

Winfred Parnell, Dr. Paula Dobbs-Wiggins, Dr. Stephanie Woods and Chairwoman Debbie Branson.

Heartfelt thanks to the late Dr. Ron Anderson who dedicated his life to Parkland, Dr. Tom Royer, Bob Smith, Ted Shaw and their highly effective interim team. Thanks to our state and federal partners, former Texas Health Commissioner Dr. David Lakey who was an indispensable partner on not only Parkland, but on the West Nile Virus and Ebola responses as well. Thanks to David Wright with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and his team. All of these leaders laid the groundwork for our current CEO Dr. Fred Cerise and his outstanding team.

To the doctors, nurses, employees, donors, and volunteers of Parkland and the Parkland Foundation, please know you have our sincere gratitude for your countless acts of love and service.

The Commissioners Court, Board of Managers, C-Suite, doctors, nurses, employees, donors and volunteers closed ranks and worked together to make this day possible.

- New Parkland will ensure that everyone in Dallas County has access to quality health care, cutting-edge technology and a healing environment.
- New Parkland makes health care in Dallas County more equitable to 133,000 Dallas County working poor citizens denied coverage by our state's refusal to expand Medicaid coverage and hundreds of thousands more mostly low income residents who lack access except through Parkland and charity care.
- New Parkland is a county hospital that will serve our 2.5 million person Dallas County community
- New Parkland will be providing the same life-saving care and still be directed by the same mission, but in a building that was built for the community by the community.
- New Parkland improves the health status of Dallas residents and allows us to truly treat our neighbors as we want ourselves and our families treated.

A shared basic tenet of faith is to "love your neighbor as yourself". When we try we quickly learn this is difficult to do. We learn that the world as seen through the eyes of one person is barely recognizable to another and our perspective and desires are not universally shared. Compassion is hard to deliver.

The women and men of Parkland are on a mission to deliver top quality compassionate care and treat their neighbors as they would want to be treated. Every person in this room has played an indispensable leadership role in this milestone on the road to that shared mission. On behalf of the 2.5 million citizens of Dallas County, thank you for your unique and vital contribution. On behalf of the Dallas County Commissioners Court, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner Mike Cantrell, Commissioner John Wiley Price and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia it is my honor to dedicate this hospital to the people of Dallas County. May God Bless the people of Dallas County and all of you with top quality compassionate care for generations to come.