Triumph Over DEPRESSION

Once again the yellow tent of Hope was erected inside the ballroom at The Mar-a-Lago Club for the Hope for Depression Research Foundation's 2nd annual Palm Beach Luncheon. Audrey Gruss, HDRF's founding chairman, welcomed guests and explained this year's new format which included a seminar prior to the luncheon. The new format allowed doctors and experts in this field to provide the best new information and take questions from the audience. This year's seminar theme focused on depression in men, which is often overlooked but is especially important at our time in history when men are profoundly impacted by the state of our nation and economy. All the participants thanked Gruss for supporting the cause and bringing into the light this most critical subject.

Felicia Taylor, CNN anchor and correspondent and five-time Emmy nominee, served as master of ceremonies to kick off the luncheon's impressive keynote speakers. She first shared her personal experience with depression after 9/11 when she made the drastic change from news anchor to virtual war correspondent at ground zero and was forced to deal with the psychological impact that followed. Taylor introduced the first keynote speaker, Dr. J. Raymond DePaulo Jr., chairman of the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. DePaulo discussed depression's impact on our society, calling it the "cancer of the 21st century." He explained that in the workplace billions of dollars are lost due to disability from depression, with suicide being the greatest cost.

Taylor then introduced this year's celebrity keynote speaker, Terry Bradshaw, the iconic football star, who was the first quarterback to win four Super Bowl victories. He is a two-time Super Bowl MVP and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee. He became the first and only NFL player to receive a star on Hollywood's walk of fame. Although Bradshaw is well-known for the outer strength that made him a sports superstar, it is less known that he battled anxiety attacks while winning Super Bowls. Bradshaw's combined outer and inner strength enabled him to triumph over depression. Bradshaw expressed his joy at being able to share his personal experience with this group and for the opportunity to discuss this pressing issue openly.

This hopeful and yet serious day was made possible by many donors who understand the pressing need for continued research into depression and its impact on society and the tireless work of Audrey Gruss and the co-chairmen of the event: Susan Keenan, Jackie Drake and Lis Waterman.

FIRST ROW: Felicia Taylor, Terry Bradshaw and Audrey Gruss; Susan Keenan, Jackie Drake and Lis Waterman. SECOND ROW: Mark and Mary Freitas, Joan and Jay Crystal, Dennis and Melanie Trump. THIRD ROW: Emilia Jampol and Grace Miegner. FOURTH ROW: Jessie Aradse, Peggy Moore and Susan Burke, Blayne Parkus, Reed Stewart and Kimberly Smith