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## **Ambler for Senate Campaign “kicks off” with Football Legend Dan Marino**



Photo by Bruce Mitchell  
Rep. Kevin Ambler (center) addresses the crowd at his Florida Senate Campaign Kickoff at Shula's Steakhouse. Pictured from left to right are: John Textor, Chairman of Digital Domain, Dr. "Gary", Rep. Kelli Sargel, Mindy Ambler, Rep. Kevin Ambler, Rep. Faye Culp, Rep. Rich Glorioso, Speaker Pro Tem Ron Reagan, and NFL Hall of Famer, Dan Marino

TAMPA, FL- State Representative Kevin Ambler (R-Tampa), candidate for State Senate, District 12, hosted an impressive Campaign Kick-Off event Wednesday night at Shula's Steak House in Tampa, Florida. NFL Hall-of-Famer Dan Marino was on hand to headline the evening, having flown in from doing an HBO Special in New York to offer his official personal endorsement of Ambler for the Florida Senate. "Rep. Ambler has been a tremendous legislative champion for us in our fight to find the cause and cure for autism, and in our battle to improve coverage for those afflicted with this condition." Marino said to a standing-room only crowd of Ambler supporters. "He was able to help us achieve what we have been working for over 12 years to accomplish in the legislature." As Health Care Appropriations Chairman overseeing nearly one third of the State's budget this past year, Rep. Ambler worked closely with Marino on issues affecting the autism community in Florida, including getting approval and funding for a new Autism specialty license plate for Florida and working on a bill giving parents the right to know more about vaccines before they are given to their children. He also worked closely with Marino's non-profit foundation last year to pass legislation to expand coverage for necessary therapies for autistic children. Marino, who has an autistic son, heads up the Governor's Task Force on Autism and The Dan Marino Foundation, a non-profit group for autism research and awareness.

Nearly 150 local supporters from Hillsborough and Pasco counties gathered for the event and enjoyed a fantastic evening of photos, autographs and conversation with their "new friend" Dan Marino. They also had the opportunity to discuss key issues affecting their community with Rep. Ambler and other members of the House of Representatives.

Joining Rep. Ambler to show their support and endorsement of his candidacy were several of his legislative colleagues, including Representative Ron Reagan, Speaker Pro Tempore, and local area Representatives Rich Glorioso, Faye Culp and Kelli Stargel. “Rep. Ambler is not just a colleague he is a good friend,” Reagan said. “Kevin has been an important member of our leadership team in the House of Representatives and, in his role as Health Care Appropriations Chairman this past legislative session, he did a phenomenal job protecting the health care system for the 2.7 million disabled and elderly citizens who rely on Medicaid in Florida. Rep. Ambler’s inclusive and collaborative approach to the tough issues proved that we were lucky to have him on the job navigating us through the budget process despite one of the worst economic downturns our State has experienced,” said Rep. Reagan. “We need an experienced dedicated legislator like Kevin Ambler in the Florida Senate who already knows the people and how the process works to get things done right from day one,” Reagan emphasized. Ambler has also already received endorsements for his bid for State Senate from long time Pinellas County Senator Dennis Jones, and from Senator Nancy Detert of Sarasota, and Senator Alex Villalobos of Miami, Chairman of the powerful Rules Committee in the Florida Senate which decides the bills to be heard on the Senate floor.

Also on hand was John Textor, Chairman of Digital Domain, who came to the event just so he could meet Ambler’s supporters and personally convey his endorsement of Ambler for State Senate. “Rep. Ambler is exactly the kind of legislator we all hope to have representing us in Tallahassee—he’s honest, smart, dedicated, and has an incredible understanding of the complexities and nuances of how the legislative process works. He has an expansive network of fellow legislators and professionals that he works closely with in a collaborative manner to really get things done,” Textor said to the packed room of Ambler supporters. “Kevin became our quarterback in Tallahassee this year and was the one legislator that never gave up fighting for us to get the economic incentives we needed from Florida for a major expansion venture of our digital animation and film production operations with Wyncrest Holdings.” “He understood our company’s vision for coming to Florida and the success of his efforts will be truly transformative to Florida’s economy.” “It will unquestionably result in the creation of thousands of jobs in Florida and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact for the State for many years to come,” said Textor.

Textor’s company, Digital Domain, is one of the top digital animation, special effects, and video game design companies in Hollywood, having received numerous academy awards and other top honors in the industry for its cutting edge special effects, including its most recent Academy Award for creating the first realistic digital human in Benjamin Button. The company’s co-chairman, Michael Bay has become one of Hollywood’s top grossing directors of all time, having just released Transformers II, starring Megan Fox and Shia LaBeouf. Rep. Ambler worked throughout this past legislative session and into the summer to help secure \$20 million in state economic incentive funding for the creation of nearly a thousand new high wage jobs in Florida that will be offered by Wyncrest Holdings, an affiliate of Digital Domain, which plans on opening a new major production facility in Florida within the year, and will partner with Florida’s universities to innovate a mentored education-to-workforce apprenticeship model for job creation. The company, in partnership with the Department of Defense and U.S. military also plans on developing the next generation facility in Florida for war game simulations.

Enthusiastic supporters listened intently as Ambler, flanked by his wife of 25 years, Mindy, and House colleagues, discussed the importance of having not just experience, but the RIGHT experience to effectively represent District 12 in the Florida Senate. His message emphasized the importance of building professional relationships, teamwork, perseverance and mastering the complex rules that make up the legislative process. Ambler stressed his steadfast commitment to pursuing his conservative policies that lower taxes, shrink government, and encourage personal responsibility. Having served this past term as Health Care Appropriations Chairman, he underscored the importance of continuing to fight for quality, affordable health care that everyone can have access to. Aware of the challenging economic times his community is facing, Ambler pledged to use all resources available to seek new and innovative

ways to create more jobs, improve education at all levels, and ensure that Florida is on the path to a robust economic recovery.

Ambler supporters left the event energized with a renewed spirit of optimism and dedication as they discussed among themselves which neighborhood would be hosting the next neighborhood campaign walk...who knows, maybe their "new friend" Dan Marino would be joining them.

First elected in 2002, Representative Ambler has been proudly serving the people of the Northwest Hillsborough County area for nearly 8 years. Recently, he has been recognized and endorsed by other key members of the Health Care community and has received the "2009 Legislator of the Year Award" from the following organizations: the Florida Health Care Association, the Association of Florida Public Hospitals, the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida, the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, the Florida Pharmacy Association and the Florida Association of Assisted Living Facilities, and the Florida Chiropractic Association.

Rep. Ambler also proudly served his country for 22 years in the United States Air Force as a judge advocate, was a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and has been practicing law in Tampa since 1991. For more information about Kevin Ambler and his candidacy for Florida State Senate visit [www.kevinambler.com](http://www.kevinambler.com)

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