



ALVARO MONTOYA HONOREE BIO

2023 Each Moment Matters Luncheon Honoree

In 2004, a significant moment unfolded as Alvaro Montoya etched his name in history by becoming the sixth overall pick for the New York Rangers in the National Hockey League (NHL) draft. This groundbreaking achievement established him as the first Spanish-speaking and Cuban American hockey player in the esteemed league. Little did Alvaro realize at the time that his NHL draft and subsequent hockey career would serve as a catalyst, opening doors for enhanced opportunities for Hispanics and other minorities within the sport.

Following a successful decade-long career as a goaltender, representing six different teams in the NHL, Alvaro retired from professional hockey in 2019. Retirement granted him the opportunity to reflect upon his unique platform and his desire to introduce the sport to underrepresented communities. These reflections led to conversations with NHL Deputy Commissioner, Bill Daly, and eventually led to Alvaro's appointment to the NHL's Player Inclusion Committee. His objective was to improve access, opportunities and experiences for underrepresented groups in hockey. These experiences have equipped him with valuable insights and uniquely prepared him for his current role as the Director of Community Outreach for the Dallas Stars.

Raised by a single mother who was a Cuban refugee, Alvaro attributes his success to his mother, Dr. Irene Silva. Witnessing his mother's unwavering determination in raising four boys single-handedly while establishing herself as a successful physician instilled in him the importance of sacrifice. In his current position as the Director of Community Outreach for the Dallas Stars, Alvaro embodies the same steadfast commitment. He firmly believes that this work is an ongoing journey, fueled by his desire for inclusivity and love of the sport.

Although Alvaro personally felt included and welcomed in the world of hockey during his childhood, he was aware that none of the players, coaches or referees looked like him. He wants that to change and he eagerly anticipates the day when the Dallas Stars' arena reflects the rich diversity present within the city of Dallas. His ultimate goal is to create an environment where every individual attending a Dallas Stars game experiences a profound sense of belonging and ownership towards the team.

Alvaro Montoya is married to Annie, and together they have three children named Camila, Henry and Nicolas.