

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **Douglas R. Belden**, Hillsborough County Tax Collector, valued public servant and community leader is one such person; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Tampa, Florida, Mr. Belden graduated from Tampa Catholic High School where he was Valedictorian, and he attended the University of South Florida earning his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1976, and thereafter began a successful career as a Real Estate Developer prior to joining the State Attorney's Office 13th Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Belden was elected as Hillsborough County Tax Collector in 1998, and reelected in each subsequent election up to his retirement from the office in 2021, and during his over two decades of service, his initial goal of saving taxpayer dollars through consolidation and efficiency, while improving service to the public was realized, and he has accomplished much, much more during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, as Hillsborough County's Tax Collector, Mr. Belden's commitment brought about positive change in the office including being the first in Florida to deploy the Q-MATIC software, initiating E-Commerce and accepting E-Check payments, creating a Spanish website, successfully merging Motor Vehicle and Tax & License call centers and adding service locations, completely upgraded and enhanced the tax collector's website, and he continually streamlined and upgraded customer service such as a dedicated call center and service kiosks, and the office consistently receives over 96 percent in customer satisfaction ratings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Belden is well-known for his deep loyalty to his family and friends, his generosity, and dedication to serving the community, and he generously gives his time and leadership skills serving with many organizations including the Mayor's Tampa Convention Hotel Selection Committee, the New York Yankee Foundation, Tampa Sports Authority, the Academy of Holy Names Board, the Florida Sterling Foundation and Council, the Florida Tax Collectors, Inc., Florida Tax Watch Board, the Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, the American Heart Association, and many more civic involvements; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Belden's stellar career, he has received numerous honors including the Florida Tax Collector's *Legislative Award*, the Governor's *Sterling Awards for Performance Excellence* and for *Sustained Performance Excellence*, the Florida Tax Collector Association's prestigious *Matt Langley Bell Award*, the Ellsworth G. Simmons' *Good Government Award*, Governor Bob Martinez's *Good Government Award*, and the Tampa Tiger Bay Club's *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, January 6, 2021 as

"DOUGLAS R. BELDEN, JR. DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for all he has contributed to the Tampa Bay community over the years, and in wishing him continued success and happiness in his retirement.



Jane Castor

Mayor