

# In Memoriam



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and nation, and one of these individuals was **Austin C. “Mac” McLane**, a beloved Public Servant and former Tampa Police Chief who passed away on Friday, January 15, 2021, at the age of 81; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief McLane was born on November 12, 1939 in Anderson, South Carolina to the late Harold and Annette Brown, and he bravely served his country in the United States Air Force as a Crash Firefighter stationed in Florida at Homestead Air Force Base and at Sidi Slimane Air Base in Morocco, and upon his honorable discharge, he returned to the United States, making Tampa, Florida his home; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1963, Chief McLane joined the Tampa Police Department and his love for law enforcement and his commitment to serving and protecting the community led to many advancements, and in 1987, he became the department’s Chief of Police where he served with honor; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure with the Tampa Police Department, Chief McLane earned a reputation as a leader who restored public trust in the police department through his dedication to repairing relationships between the department and minority communities, and who was committed to serving all neighborhoods equitably, and he was nationally recognized as an expert in fighting organized crime; and

**WHEREAS**, upon retirement as Tampa’s Chief of Police in 1991, Chief McLane relocated to Georgia that same year, and he became the Chief of Police for the Augusta Police Department until the city of Augusta and Richmond County consolidated and he was named Chief Deputy with the Richmond County Sheriff’s Office, and thereafter he served with the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office as a Fraud Investigator; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief McLane was very proud to serve in law enforcement, and he was known for mentoring and instilling the value of public service in others throughout his career including as an Associate Professor at Augusta University; and

**WHEREAS**, well known for his strong ethics, sense of humor, friendliness, and for his caring, kind and humble nature, Chief McLane will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, his integrity, strength, and for his commitment to excellence.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Austin C. McLane Family, his wife Davene, son David, daughter Kimberly, grandsons Ryan and Brent, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our community and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2021.

  
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Mayor