

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, blindness knows no discrimination, as any child can be born blind and any individual can become blind because of injury, disease or a congenital condition, and it is in the best interest of all people to become more aware of blindness and to understand the needs of the blind; and

WHEREAS, the **National Federation of the Blind (NFB)** was established in 1940 and is the oldest and largest organization of blind Americans, and the NFB has been dedicated to its founding principles that blind people have an inalienable right to independence and have equal capacity, and that only blind people themselves can legitimately speak for the blind community; and

WHEREAS, through the NFB organization, blind adults and children find hope, assistance and valuable tools needed to lead fulfilling and successful lives, and the organization has established many innovative programs and services including training, education and scholarships, advocacy and outreach, technology and products, safety and support, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind has affiliates throughout the United States including the **National Federation of the Blind of Florida (NFBF)**, established in 1970, and it represents dedicated chapters throughout the state including the local Tampa Bay Chapter, founded in 1987; and

WHEREAS, the NFBF has been committed for over fifty years to its motto *Live the Life You Want* because blindness is not what holds people back, and the organization has raised the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and their dreams, and they work diligently toward equality and complete integration of the blind into society by removing legal, economic, and social discrimination; and

WHEREAS, hosted by the Tampa Bay and Miami-Dade Chapters, the **51st Annual State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida** is held October 1-4, 2021 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, and the event will provide the opportunity for members and guests to reflect on all that has been accomplished over the past five decades, and to plan for its future achievements and success in advocating for the right of all blind people to fully exercise their individual talents and capacities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 2, 2021 as

“NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF FLORIDA DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in thanking the local, state and national leaders and members of the National Federation of the Blind for their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for blind and visually impaired individuals.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 2nd day of October, 2021.



Mayor

