

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 **Henry F. Ruiz**, a beloved, well-respected and legendary Broadcasting and Radio Personality known as Tedd Webb, Photographer, and Songwriter who passed away on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at the age of 72; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz was born in the Ybor City neighborhood of Tampa, Florida in 1950 to the late Candida and Liborio Ruiz, and he attended Rosa Valdez Settlement, St. Joseph's Catholic School, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1967, where he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2002, was an active member of the West Tampa Boys Club, and his love of broadcasting began in his youth, where at 14 years old, he became a WALT Radio correspondent representing Jesuit High School, and thereafter he served his country in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz was an extraordinary media personality and the voice of Tampa Bay for over fifty years where he endeared himself to listening and viewing audiences, becoming a household name, and he hone his skills over the years at various stations, in Michigan and in the Tampa area including an original member of the popular WRBQ-FM's *Q Morning Zoo*, hosting WFTS-Channel 28 Television's *Sports Rap*, and in 1983, he joined WFLA 970 AM serving as the host of *The Sports Huddle* and as co-host of the award winning *AM Tampa Bay* and throughout his career, he developed a strong fan-following in the region, he served as the voice of many documentaries for the City of Tampa, worked with Creative on Main Street Productions, and among his many other talents, he was a professional wrestling manager and announcer, and a songwriter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz was known as an accomplished photographer, he owned *Tedd Webb's East on 7th Avenue Studios* and produced two books highlighting his art, and he loved his Tampa community, always willing to support many charitable and civic organizations including the City of Tampa's Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Metropolitan Ministries, Pediatric Cancer Research, and more, and he was a popular request to host or emcee at major events, he engaged others to participate in activities including founding several karaoke groups, and he was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Chulos; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz was honored many times over his lifetime including receiving the Toastmasters International's *Communicator of the Year Award*, named the *2001 Hispanic Heritage Man of the Year*, and he was nominated as a finalist in the National Radio Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, well known for his love of life, sense of humor, versatility, and kind nature, Mr. Ruiz will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, his faith, loyalty, high standards, his commitment to excellence, and for his favorite slogan *Live it Up*.

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 Henry F. Ruiz Family, his wife Zoila, daughter Mandi, sons Nick and Lee, grandchildren, sister Violet 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.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of April 2021.

Jane Castor
Mayor