

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, as the citizens of the United States of America enjoy their freedoms and the right to pursue happiness and prosperity, they should be mindful of the sacrifices made by the men and women who bravely served, and continue to serve the nation in the United States Armed Forces in the protection of our precious liberty and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Operation Iraqi Freedom left wounds not always seen, but forever felt and it was one of the most challenging missions the United States military has ever known, and those serving demonstrated an unwavering commitment to duty, including Lima Company, a Marine reserve unit that was one of the hardest hit in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, created by artist Anita Miller, *The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial* is a traveling tribute to honor the service and sacrifice of all who answer our nation's call, and the memorial depicts the twenty-three United States Marines and Navy Corpsmen of Lima Company who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, the life-size *Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial* has been a living traveling tribute that moves around the from city to city around the nation and its mission is to provide alternative therapies through the arts for our military, veterans, first responders and families; and

WHEREAS, hosted by the Veteran Art Center Tampa Bay, *The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial* is traveling to the Tampa Bay area on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, displayed at the Brandon Harley Davidson to honor *all* those who answer our nations call - then, now, and tomorrow, and to honor the thousands of men and women who have greatly sacrificed defending our freedoms.

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, November 17, 2021 as

“EYES OF FREEDOM: LIMA COMPANY MEMORIAL DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in honoring the brave men and women who have unselfishly answered our nation's call to serve in the United States Armed Forces and pay tribute to those who sacrificed on our behalf.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of November 2021.



Jane Castor

Mayor