

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization established in 1979 devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and it has honored individuals who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions, and who help enrich the lives of other Hispanics; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will celebrate its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2021 Hispanic Man of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for his commitment to others, and who has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through civic and community service; and

**WHEREAS**, raised in Crystal River, Florida this year's honoree is **Romulo "Romy" Camargo**, who has enriched the lives of others, especially within the Hispanic community throughout his life. Mr. Camargo served his country by enlisting in the United States Army in 1995, stationed at the Hunter Army Airfield and thereafter in 1999, he attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course and was named a Special Forces Communications Noncommissioned Officer (NCO); he graduated from the Special Forces Course in 2001, leading to deployments in Central and South America and Africa, and then deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and serving as a Chief Warrant Officer, second in command of the Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA), and in September of 2008, while on a humanitarian mission in Afghanistan, Mr. Camargo sustained a gunshot wound to his neck which caused him to be paralyzed from the shoulders down; and

**WHEREAS**, a retired Green Beret, Mr. Camargo is well-known for his distinguished service, valor and determination, and he bravely underwent multiple surgeries at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital as a result of his injury leading to his desire to help others, so in 2015, Mr. Camargo along with his wife, opened *Stay In Step Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center* in Tampa, Florida, where the facility treats returning service members and veterans with spinal cord and neurological disorders that cause paralysis, and they are dedicated to their mission of advancing, promoting, maintaining, and enhancing the well-being of hundreds of injured veterans, many who are Hispanic; and

**WHEREAS**, admired for his service to the nation and contributions to the Tampa Bay community, Mr. Camargo has received many awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Special Operations Combat Divers Badge, and many more. His leadership, commitment, genuine desire to make a difference, and his ability to serve as an inspirational role model and mentor to others certainly justifies naming him the **2021 Hispanic Man of the Year**.

**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 16, 2021 as

## **ROMULO CAMARGO, HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR DAY**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending, and thanking him for his outstanding service and contributions to our country and community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor