

# Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, featuring a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887".

*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, founded on October 5, 1931 as Tampa Junior College, it soon thereafter became the **University of Tampa** (UT) and made its home at the former Tampa Bay Hotel overlooking the Hillsborough River, and it is globally well-known for its world-class education, its over 200 academic programs, extraordinary beauty and architecture with spectacular domes, cupolas, and minarets atop Plant Hall, and it is a National Historic Landmark and a Tampa treasure; and

**WHEREAS**, a private university, UT's mission includes delivering challenging and high-quality educational experiences to a diverse group of learners and is committed to developing each student to become productive and responsible citizens, and its highly qualified faculty members are committed to teaching, advising, and continuing intellectual growth, and are supportive of all aspects of student development including through activities, community service, honors, leadership, study abroad programs, and championship sports; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Tampa Spartans Athletic Program is led by Director Larry Marfise, and under his over two decades of leadership has consistently elevated the department's state and national standings, winning 20 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II championships, 112 Sunshine State Conference Championships, and more than 550 Spartan players have earned All-American titles and over 50 named Academic All-Americans, bringing national and international acclaim to the Tampa Bay area; and

**WHEREAS**, among the championship athletic teams who have excelled is the **University of Tampa Volleyball Team** who, on Saturday, December 10, 2021, won its fourth National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II national title when top-seeded University of Tampa Spartans defeated the Washburn University Ichabods with a 3-0 sweep at the Bob Martinez Athletics Center, UT's home court and in front of a record attendance of nearly 1,900 fans; and

**WHEREAS**, the highly skilled and firmly committed volleyball team members, led by Head Coach Chris Catanach, Assistant Coach Brian Imperiale and Graduate Assistant Andres Tirado, played with determination and excellence to earn a 34-2 record for the 2021 volleyball season and added another victory to the University's Wall of Champions, and the dedicated players and coaches consistently play with professionalism, spirit, and dignity, and they serve as positive role models for the youth and fans in our community, state and nation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, January 28, 2022 as

## ***"UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA SPARTANS VOLLEYBALL DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join with the UT Spartan fans in celebrating the impressive accomplishments of their Home Team, support the Spartan Volleyball Team as they continue to compete, and congratulate them for their impressive efforts on and off volleyball courts.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

  
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Mayor

