

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1898, the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as the **Rough Riders**, was led by future president Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt and its unit commander former White House physician Colonel Leonard Wood, and they became the most famous unit to fight in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, helping the victorious win with the Battle of Las Guasimas and the Battle of San Juan Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Rough Riders, consisting of volunteers from all walks of life throughout the United States, gathered in Tampa, Florida in May of 1898 to prepare for their noble place in American military history, and they sailed for Santiago de Cuba on June 13, 1898, landing nine days later where they honorably fought against the Spanish forces; and

WHEREAS, established in 1978, the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Inc., more familiarly known as the **Tampa Rough Riders**, was founded to create and perpetuate a living memorial to the unique accomplishments of former President Theodore Roosevelt and the members of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, to pay tribute to the brave men of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, Tampa’s **Rough Riders Park** in historic Ybor City was named in their honor, and the site includes a granite memorial monument and the Teddy Roosevelt Museum; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Rough Riders are well-known throughout the Tampa community for their contributions, charitable endeavors, and civic participation including the Teddy Bear Roundup whereby stuffed animals are collected and distributed to needy children, their support of Special Olympics events, hosting Tampa’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, participating in Tampa’s iconic Gasparilla Parade, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Rough Riders are celebrating its **Rough Riders Annual Festival** on June 3-12, 2022, and the ten days of activities include a Charity Fishing Tournament, a Cigar Bash and Flea Market, a “Night at the Museum” event, the unveiling of the *SS Yucatan* float, named for the steamship that carried the Rough Riders to Cuba in 1898, and the rededication of the *Rough Riders Passed By Here* historical marker in Lykes Gaslight Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of June 3-12, 2022, as

“TAMPA ROUGH RIDERS DAYS”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in saluting the Tampa Rough Riders for their contributions and service to the Tampa, Florida community and to the state of Florida.



Jane Castor
Mayor