

Proclamation



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 its citizens. **Mildred “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias** (June 26, 1911 – September 27, 1956) is one such person; and

WHEREAS, the namesake and former owner of one of Tampa, Florida’s most well-known golf courses, the ***Babe Zaharias Golf Course***, is recognized as the greatest woman athlete of the early twentieth century, excelling in many sports including basketball, track and field, baseball, and golf, and she was one of the most prominent members of the 1932 United States Olympic Team that competed in Los Angeles, California, whereby she earned Gold Medals in the javelin and 80-meter hurdles, and a Silver Medal in the high jump; and

WHEREAS, following the Olympics, Babe was recognized as the *1932 Woman Athlete of the Year* by the Associated Press (AP), an honor she earned five more times between the years 1945 and 1954, and she was voted by the AP in 1950 as *Woman Athlete of the Half Century*; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Babe became a professional golfer, and her dedication to the sport led to her establishing the prestigious Ladies Professional Golfers Association in 1950 with thirteen other women golfers; and

WHEREAS, during her lifetime Babe was committed to breaking down social customs and barriers that restricted women from various segments of American life, she challenged the public’s expectancy of women to conform to certain societal norms to allow them to become exceptional in athletics, a male dominated domain during her time, and Babe Zaharias is well-recognized by many as a courageous pioneer who blazed a trail in women’s sports allowing others to follow their passion and excel; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the 111th Anniversary of Babe Zaharias’ birth, the Tampa Sports Authority and the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association are hosting events in her honor including the 12th Annual Babe Day Golf Scramble on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 26, 2022, as

“BABE ZAHARIAS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in commemorating the life of Babe Zaharias, her accomplishments and vast contributions to sports, and the impact she had on our city and its citizens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of June 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor