

In Memoriam



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing citizens whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community. One such individual was **Jay Leonard Levy**, a well-respected and beloved community leader and businessman who passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at age 89; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levy was born on July 25, 1933, in Tampa, Florida to the late Solomon and Simmie Levy, and he graduated from Henry B. Plant High School, and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Florida (UF) in Journalism where throughout his life he served with its National Executive Committee and the Gator Boosters, and upon graduation, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge from his military service as Captain, Mr. Levy began his business career with Hillsboro Printing Company as a sales representative, and his abilities, professionalism, dedication to ethical business practices, and natural personality led to many promotions up to his capstone as President and Majority Shareholder, and upon his retirement in 2006, he dedicated himself fully to his passion for the Tampa Bay community, its citizens, and its growth and success; and

WHEREAS, undeniably passionate about sports and his beloved community, his efforts and leadership helped put the Tampa Bay region on national and global maps including through his very successful campaign to bring a National Football League (NFL) franchise to Tampa, which he accomplished in 1974 with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, his determination to bring the NFL Super Bowl to our city resulted in the hosting of five Super Bowls from 1984 to 2021, where he chaired the Task Force for each one, and his accomplishments led to further success in establishing the Tampa Bay Rowdies, Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa Bay Rays, and Tampa hosting many major globally watched and attended events such as the Republican National Convention, Major League Baseball's World Series, National Collegiate Athletic Association's Final Four Basketball Championship, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levy, a strong supporter of his hometown of Tampa, went above and beyond in his leadership, service, and philanthropy including as a founding member of the Gold Shield Foundation, serving with the Outback Bowl, Tampa Bay Sports Foundation, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Tampa General Hospital Foundation, Tampa Sports Authority, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla, and others; and

WHEREAS, among his many well-deserved honors and recognitions, Mr. Levy was named Civitan Club's *Citizen of the Year*, Tampa Sports Club's *Ad Man of the Year* and *Citizen of the Year Award*, the Jaycee's *Distinguished Service Award*, UF's *Distinguished Alumnus Award*, he was inducted into the UF and Tampa Sports Halls of Fame, and he received the *Key to the City of Tampa* and *J. Leonard Levy Day* was proclaimed in his honor in 2021; and

WHEREAS, known as a tenacious, enthusiastic, generous, and kind man who valued, inspired, and mentored others, Mr. Levy will be forever remembered for his love of family, his wisdom, ethics, and generosity, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the enormous imprint he made in our community and in all those whose lives he has touched.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Jay Leonard Levy Family, his wife Patricia, his son Jay, daughters Jana, Ann, and Tricia, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the incredible impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of August, 2022.

Jane Castor
Mayor