

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month is an annual event celebrated in the month of October to honor citizens living in long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub-acute units, assisted living, board and care, and retirement communities, and the federal *Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987* guarantees residents their individual rights to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy, and it is vital that they are aware of these rights so that they may be empowered to live with self-determination and self-worth; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 1.3 million individuals in the United States of America living in 15,600 nursing homes, and over 800,000 people in our nation are living in 28,900 assisted living and residential care facilities, and Florida has approximately 690 nursing facilities, and the state of Florida's long-term care centers require the highest level of direct care hours, 3.5 hours versus the national average of 2.5 hours; and

WHEREAS, as with all citizens, residents in long-term facilities have the right to privacy; the right to be free from abuse, mistreatment, neglect, and physical restraint; the right to be treated with dignity, respect and to exercise self-determination; the right to communicate freely; the right to participate in the political process and vote; and the right to be fully informed on their care, treatment, or change in status in the facility in which they reside; and

WHEREAS, the *Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program* is a volunteer-based system of local units with a mission of improving the quality of life for all Florida long-term residents by advocating for and protecting their health, safety, welfare, and rights, and locally, the *West Central Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council* provides free services to Hillsborough and Manatee Counties whereby the dedicated volunteers work to identify, investigate, and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, and continuing care retirement communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month provides the opportunity to celebrate these citizens, to honor their individuality and thank them for their contributions to our nation over the years, and the 2022 theme is **Inspiring Unity Within Our Community** to emphasize the importance of fostering meaningful community within the facility and encouraging residents' connection to their local neighborhoods.

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

“NATIONAL LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all residents to join me in supporting the individual rights of all our citizens, including those living in long-term care facilities.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15th day of September 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor