

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; **Olga Barnes**, a valued Educator and Community Leader is one such person; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barnes served as a Spanish teacher for over forty years, more than thirty of them at George D. Chamberlain High School in Tampa, Florida, before her retirement, and she left a legacy that is unmatched for her firm commitment and dedication to the students; and

WHEREAS, more than a Spanish teacher, Ms. Barnes made every student, feel as though they were her favorite, making them feel exceptionally special and giving them more than language skills, she taught them, even those who did not sit in her classroom, life lessons, encouraging them to grow and learn; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barnes has spent her life committed to education, and she led her students by examples of integrity and joy, and she went above and beyond in teaching by helping them with their everyday needs, sometimes giving them extra attention and providing for their needs, often with her own money; and

WHEREAS, many of today's leaders, public servants, business owners, philanthropists, artists, and other successful individuals were influenced by Ms. Barnes and her extraordinary ability to connect and impact their young lives so they would gain the tools to attain their aspirations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barnes is beloved by her former students and the entire Tampa Bay community, and she is well-known for her wonderful hugs, her smile that radiated from her eyes, her keen sense of humor, meaningful gifts she bestowed, her famous sangria and limoncello, and her ability to elevate those around her and make them feel joyful and special; Ms. Barnes has and continues to inspire us all and she serves as an example for others to emulate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 11, 2022, as

“OLGA BARNES DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking her for all she has contributed to our community and those who were fortunate enough to be influenced by her, especially her students that she impacted for over forty years, and in wishing her continued success in her future endeavors.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 11th day of November 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor