

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, in 1987, the United States Congress named the month of March as “**Women’s History Month**” in special recognition of the many contributions women have made to our country’s history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is proud to join in the celebration of Women’s History Month, and the 2023 theme, *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories* honors women who not only chronicle history through mediums such as radio and television, but also through traditions and customs passed down through generations; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the tradition of recognizing excellence and service to the City of Tampa, the **Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award** was established to be given annually to a current or former City of Tampa female employee who is a pioneer in her profession and/or excels in a field or level where women are underrepresented, and who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to her position and community; this year, the **2023 Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award** is presented to **Mary Bryan**, Tampa City Council Legislative Aide in recognition of her long-standing commitment to the City of Tampa and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, with the distinction of being the longest serving City of Tampa employee, Mary began her career at age seventeen in the office of Urban Renewal, now known as Housing and Community Services, and her dedication and abilities created advancement opportunities including with the Revenue and Finance Department as a Grants Writer, then with the Legal Department as the Assistant to the City Attorney, and in 2011, she was named Legislative Aide for the Honorable Charlie Miranda, Tampa City Councilman where she has faithfully served with a firm commitment to the City and Tampa’s residents, and throughout her sixty year career, Mary has served under eleven separate Mayors of Tampa and has shared her passion for public service with others and mentored numerous City elected officials, those in leadership positions, employees, and citizens. Mary’s vast knowledge, tenacity, hard work, compassion, and ethics are legendary, and she is well-known for her reliability, warm gentle nature, and bright smile. Mary’s dedication goes beyond her role with the City with involvement in many worthy organizations including the Spring of Tampa Bay, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, United Way of Tampa Bay, Dress for Success, the Humane Society, Tampa Police Department, Tampa Fire Rescue, and more, and her commitment to the youth of our city include Teens Engaged in Community, Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, Career Experience Program for the City Attorney’s Office, and Mayor Freedman’s Committee on Youth Opportunities, and among her many honors include the *Mayors Youth Employment Award* for the Summer Jobs campaign, and the *Citizen’s Award* from former Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee, and

WHEREAS, Mary Bryan’s legacy is officially recognized on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, during the **26th Annual Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award Ceremony** held at the Tampa Bay History Center featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah McNamara, Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University, and author of *Ybor City: Crucible of the Latina South*; and

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 month of March 2023 as

“WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to pay tribute to Mary on her selection for this honor, and to observe this month by giving special recognition in their own way to all women who have positively affected their lives.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of March 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor