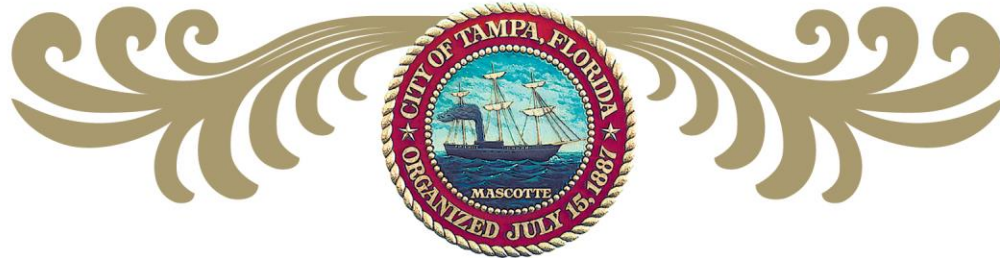


In Memoriam



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 nation, and one of these individuals was the **Honorable Samuel “Sam” P. Bell III**, a well-respected Public Servant, Advocate, Attorney, and a champion for children who passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, born on May 21, 1939, in Charleston, West Virginia to the late Samuel Bell, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth Stevens, Representative Bell relocated to Florida with his family and attended Fort Lauderdale High School, where he was elected student government president, voted “Most Likely to Succeed” and earned his Eagle Scout ranking, and thereafter he graduated from Dartmouth College where he served as student government president and joined Kappa Sigma and Phi Alpha Delta fraternities, and received his Juris Doctor degree from Duke University School of Law, and thereafter began his stellar career in Florida as an attorney with prestigious law firms including Cobb & Cole PA, Pennington PA, and Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC; and

WHEREAS, representing the 28th District from 1974 to 1988, Representative Bell served in the Florida House of Representatives where he led with integrity and was well respected for his leadership, intelligence, decisiveness, and ethics, and where he was known as factual, tough but compassionate, and for his ability to get things done; he headed many committees including Chair of the Appropriations and the Rules Committees, and he is credited with saving countless lives through his creation of important and meaningful legislation including Children’s Medical Services Act, Regional Perinatal Program, Infant Metabolic Screening, Bill of Rights for Mentally Disabled, vehicle child restraint requirements, sponsoring the Florida Resident Access Grant, and much more that greatly benefitted his fellow Floridians; and

WHEREAS, concerned about the health issues in Florida communities, Representative Bell founded the University of South Florida College of Public Health, the first college of public health in the state, and he was known as the “father” of the institution for his dedication in its creation and growth, and his generous support, establishing partnerships and scholarships including The Sam Bell Endowed Scholarship for Public Health, and other funding initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bell was a Director Emeritus and Board Member with Brown & Brown, Inc., served on the Board of Directors of the Children’s Home Society of Florida, the WUSF Advisory Board, was President of the Florida Public Health Institute, Inc., and a member of the Florida Elections Commission and the Florida Institute for Health Innovation, and among his many honors for his lifetime of contributions include receiving the very prestigious USF Alumni Association’s *Class of ’56 Award*, the Miami Herald’s *Outstanding Member of the House Award*, the *Samuel P. Bell Memorial Fund for Community Partnership Schools* is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bell was an honorable man and known for his intelligence, integrity, strong convictions, positive nature, and determined advocacy on behalf of others, and he will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, as a true gentleman, for leading by example, for his great sense of humor and laugh, his love of birds and the outdoors, and his legacy includes making a difference and improving the lives of many, especially children.

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 Samuel P. Bell III Family, his wife Betty, sons Sam IV, Douglas, and David, stepchildren Karen, Kathy, and Frank, Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the considerable impact of his life on our community, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of March, 2023.

Jane Castor

Mayor