

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; **Roy J. Caldwood**, a United States Army Buffalo Soldier Veteran, Community Advocate, and Centenarian is one such person; and

WHEREAS, born a century ago in New York City, New York, Mr. Caldwood served his nation honorably with the United States Army from 1943-1946, as a Buffalo Soldier with the 92nd Infantry, the only African American infantry that participated in combat during World War II, and he was a Medic with the Reconnaissance Troop, 2nd Platoon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Caldwood served with the 92nd Infantry in Italy where he became fluent in Italian, and he earned a *Bronze Star* and the *American Campaign Medal* for his bravery, heroic deeds, and voluntary missions including risking his life to aid an Italian man, navigating and protecting women villagers through an exceptionally dangerous area known as the *Purple Heart Stretch* so they could get food supplies, and a group of German soldiers surrendered to his platoon; Mr. Caldwood is one of the last remaining living Buffalo Soldiers and is deserving of our nation's appreciation for his great service to our country; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving his honorable discharge, Mr. Caldwood began an over two-decade career with the New York City Department of Corrections at Rikers Island, New York City's largest jail, and he earned the respect of his superiors, peers, and the inmates for the positive results he accomplished through his respectful and compassionate treatment of the staff and inmates and for maintaining calmness and order, and his outstanding work resulted in promotions to a capstone of Assistant Deputy Warden and Program Director; and

WHEREAS, During Mr. Caldwood's tenure at Rikers Island, he earned the reputation as a negotiator that resulted in non-violent resolutions in altercations, riots, hostage situations, and escape attempts, and during the 1972 Rikers Island Riot, Mr. Caldwood was taken hostage along with other corrections officers, and his status with the inmates helped to keep him safe, and his efforts were instrumental in restoring order; he mentored others and taught at the Department of Correction Training Academy; and

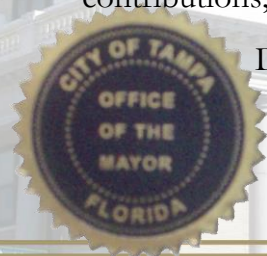
WHEREAS, for his many contributions, Mr. Caldwood earned the *Commissioner's Award for Bravery* and the *New York City Department of Correction Guardian Association Medal of Honor, Valor & Merit*, and he is the author of *Making the Right Moves: Rikers Island & NYC Corrections – Being Calm in the Storm* (2015); he continues to advocate for veterans, criminal justice reform, the community, and other important issues through speaking engagements at major events.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 5, 2023, as

“ROY J. CALDWOOD DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his brave service, lifetime of contributions, and incredible history, and in wishing him continued success in his future endeavors.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 5th day of April 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor