

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a neurological disorder that causes individuals to have recurring seizures and it is a world-wide health problem with an estimated 3.4 million people in the United States with the disorder, of which approximately 470,000 of them are children ages 0-17 years old; and

WHEREAS, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity, or sensory phenomena, and it is a sign that certain brain cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive number of electrical impulses; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a common and diverse set of chronic neurological disorders characterized by seizures, and although in many of the cases the cause is unknown, it often can be attributed to brain tumor, lack of oxygen at birth, injury to the brain, infection, or brain hemorrhage; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy is the third most common neurological condition, and one in twenty-six people in the United States will develop the disorder in their lifetime due to abnormal brain development, illness, brain injury, or from an unknown cause; and

WHEREAS, lack of widespread understanding and knowledge about epilepsy often causes people, especially children and youth, to fear, isolate, tease, and even bully their peers who are affected with epilepsy or other seizure disorders, so it is imperative that communities become educated to enhance inclusion and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the **Epilepsy Services Foundation, Inc.** was established in 1973 in Tampa, Florida, with a mission to create a better future and environment for persons affected by epilepsy living in the West Central Florida region, especially children, teens, and young adults, and their families; for five decades the organization has provided epilepsy education, seizure first-aid training, community events to raise awareness, parent support groups, and meet and greet opportunities for families who have a child with epilepsy so they can share their family's epilepsy journey; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary, the Epilepsy Services Foundation is hosting its ***Epilepsy Ambassador Gala*** on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the BioSpine Institute, and the special event will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished since it was founded in 1973, and plan for its future successes in supporting the epilepsy community throughout our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 6, 2023, as

“EPILEPSY SERVICES FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating the Florida Services Foundation on their milestone 50th Anniversary, and in thanking them for their efforts to improve the quality of life for those affected by epilepsy.

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



Jane Castor
Mayor