

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, often misdiagnosed, **myasthenia gravis** (MG) is a complex, chronic autoimmune, neuromuscular disease that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles, which are the muscles that connect to your bones and contract to allow body movement in the arms and legs, and allow for breathing, and although there is no cure, medications and treatments can help to control the disorder; and

WHEREAS, the myasthenia gravis disorder causes extreme muscle weakness that can impact a person's ability to see, smile, walk, talk, and breathe, and an estimated 70,000 to 100,000 individuals in the United States are living with myasthenia gravis, a debilitating and sometimes fatal disorder that has multiple causes, and because of its rarity, patients are often undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, myasthenia gravis does not appear to be directly inherited, but could occur in more than one member of the same family, it can affect anyone regardless of race, gender, and age, and it is not a contagious condition; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1952, the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) is a leading nonprofit organization with the mission to Create Connections, Enhance Lives, Improve Care, and Cure MG, and their vision includes *A World Without Myasthenia Gravis*, and the foundation touches the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients, families, friends, and medical professionals throughout the nation and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America has support groups throughout the country, including locally, the St. Petersburg MG Support Group, serving and enhancing the patients and their families in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties; and

WHEREAS, MGFA established **Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month**, held annually in the month of June to promote awareness and education regarding MG, with a goal of creating ***A World Without MG***.

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 June 2023, as

“MYASTHENIA GRAVIS AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of this serious disease and thank the efforts of health care professionals and organizations such as Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America for their dedication to the well-being of the citizens of our city, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 25th day of May 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor