

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1898, the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as the **Rough Riders**, was led by future president Lieutenant Colonel Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt and its unit commander former White House physician Colonel Leonard Wood, and they became the most famous unit to fight in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, helping the victorious win with the Battle of Las Guasimas and the Battle of San Juan Hill; and

WHEREAS, founded in April 1898 and trained in Texas, the Rough Riders consisting of volunteers from all walks of life, gathered in Tampa, Florida in June of 1898 to prepare for their noble place in American military history, and they sailed for Santiago de Cuba, landing on June 22, 1898, where they honorably fought against the Spanish forces; and

WHEREAS, established in 1978, the 1st U. S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Inc., more familiarly known as the **Tampa Rough Riders**, was founded to create and perpetuate a living memorial to the accomplishments, values, and memory of former President Theodore Roosevelt and the original members of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, to pay tribute to the brave men of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, Tampa’s **Rough Riders Park** in historic Ybor City was named in their honor, and the site includes a granite memorial monument and the Teddy Roosevelt Museum; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Rough Riders are well-known throughout the Tampa community for their many contributions, charitable endeavors, and civic participation including the Teddy Bear Roundup whereby stuffed animals are collected and distributed to needy children, their support of Special Olympics events, hosting Tampa’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, participating in Tampa’s iconic Gasparilla Parades, and much more; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the **125th Anniversary of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment**, the Tampa Rough Riders are celebrating June 2 through June 8, 2023, to commemorate the week in 1898 when the original Rough Riders stayed in Tampa, Florida, before sailing to Cuba and making their mark in our nation’s history.

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 week of June 2-8, 2023, as

“TAMPA ROUGH RIDERS ANNIVERSARY WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in saluting the Tampa Rough Riders for their contributions and service to the Tampa, Florida community, and to honor the 125th Anniversary of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment by supporting and promoting its historical significance.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 2nd day of June 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor