

# Proclamation



*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 its citizens. One of these notables is **Frederick (Fred) Stanley McGriff**, a legendary Major League Baseball First Baseman and Icon, well-known as a left-handed power hitter, and beloved member of the Tampa Bay community where he was born and raised; and

**WHEREAS**, born on October 31, 1963, Fred credits his late parents Earl and Eliza McGriff for instilling strong ethics in him, and for encouraging his love of baseball, and he spent his childhood near his home at Al Lopez Field, watching the major-league Cincinnati Reds play during spring training, and he developed his physical strength at Tampa Stadium during Tampa Bay Buccaneer games running up and down the stands vending soft drinks to the fans; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred's baseball talents and keen grasp of game fundamentals began when he played ball with the acclaimed West Tampa Little League, and he further honed his skills with the Jefferson High School Dragons, and thereafter continued gaining proficiency and basic strategic knowledge when he received a scholarship to play National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball with the University of Georgia Bulldogs; and

**WHEREAS**, drafted by the New York Yankees in the 1981 Amateur Draft, Fred's talents soon became known throughout Major League Baseball (MLB) when he was traded to the Toronto Blue Jays in 1986, where he was named the designated hitter during his first career game and where he made his first career hit, and he earned the nickname "Crime Dog" after McGriff the Crime Dog, a National Crime Prevention campaign figure; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred became an acclaimed baseball player and enhanced the teams he played for including the Toronto Blue Jays (1986-1990), the San Diego Padres (1990-1993), the Atlanta Braves (1993-1997) where he was instrumental in the team reaching and winning the 1995 World Series contributing with two home runs, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays (1998-2001, and 2004), the Chicago Cubs 2001-2002), and the Los Angeles Dodgers (2003); and

**WHEREAS**, Fred's impeccable career highlights during his nineteen seasons include an extraordinary batting average of .280, batting 493 home runs with a record of at least 30 homers within ten seasons, 1,550 Runs Batted In (RBI), he has the distinction of being the third hitter to reach a .509 slugging percentage, he is ranked third in career games playing in his position at first base, and he has received many honors including being a *World Series Champion*, being named the *1989 American League Player of the Month*, the *1993 National League Player of the Month*, *1994 All-Star Most Valuable Player (MVP)*, five-time *All-Star*, won the *Silver Slugger Award* three times, and on July 23, 2023, legendary Fred McGriff was deservedly inducted into the ***Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2023***; and

**WHEREAS**, well-known as an extraordinary man of integrity, persistence, dedication, professionalism, and humility, Fred is admired for his easy-going and fun nature, for his love of his family, friends, the baseball community, and for his hometown of Tampa, and it is fitting that he is honored for all he has achieved and contributed on and off the baseball field.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 22, 2023, as

## **"FRED MCGRIFF DAY"**

in the city of Tampa and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the legacy and success of Fred McGriff, thanking him for his positive impact in the Tampa Bay community, congratulating him on his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2023, and in wishing him continued success in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2023.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor