

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing outstanding individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; **Reverend Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr.**, beloved Pastor, Public Servant, and Spiritual and Community Leader is one such person; and

WHEREAS, truly a "Man of God," Pastor Banks was raised in Pensacola, Florida, attended and earned degrees from Pensacola Junior College and the University of South Florida, and went on to receive his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary, and Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Belford University of Savannah, Georgia and Florida Beacon College and Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, with his compassionate nature, Pastor Banks served the senior citizens of Tampa as Director of Aging Services for Hillsborough County, Florida, where his legacy includes providing outstanding services to the older community, and during his four decades, he created many initiatives that elevated the standards and quality of life for our older community; and

WHEREAS, a member of St. John Progressive Missionary Baptist Church since his higher education days, Pastor Banks first served as the church organist, and his strong faith, vision, and desire to serve God led to many promotions within the church and whereby he gained expertise that led to being named its Pastor in 1992, where he has served with unwavering dedication and passion, and he is known for mentoring and inspiring others over the years including his over 2,400 member congregation, religious leaders, public figures, and communities throughout Tampa, the state of Florida, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Banks also serves in other important leadership capacities including with the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc., and with the Progressive Missionary and Education Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc. where he was twice elected as its President, works with the Hillsborough County Division of Children and Youth Services, serves on the Board of Trustees of Florida Memorial University, and he is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, well-known as a dynamic, motivating, and loving man, Pastor Banks is being honored on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the St. John Progressive Missionary Baptist Church Sanctuary for his lifetime of service, activism, leadership and spiritual guidance, especially with St. John Progressive Missionary Baptist Church that includes over thirty as its beloved Pastor, and for his vast contributions to the citizens of Tampa, and the program theme "**Pastor, Leader, and Friend**" highlights the love, admiration, and appreciation all have for him.

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, October 14, 2023, as

"REVEREND DR. BARTHOLOMEW BANKS, SR. DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved recognition, and in thanking him for all he has contributed to our city, state, and nation over the years, especially for his dedicated service and leadership.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 8th day of October 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor