

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization established in 1979, devoted to preserving, promoting, and celebrating Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and together with corporate partners, has honored those men and women who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors, and contributions, and who help enrich the lives of other Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will celebrate its 35th Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2023 Hispanic Man of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for his commitment to others, and who has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through civic and community service; and

WHEREAS, this year's honoree, **Dr. Ramon (Ray) Ortiz**, is a well-known and respected Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD) who is exceptionally dedicated to his dental practice, his patients, and veterans for nearly five decades, and his career highlights include service in the United States Air Force where he retired as a Colonel after twenty years. Dr. Ortiz has enriched the lives of others, especially within the Hispanic community throughout his life and has demonstrated that he is an outstanding leader and is committed to Tampa Bay and its residents, he impacts individuals professionally through his volunteer work with the Florida Dental Association's Mission for Mercy pro bono dental care program, and he serves as a valued Veteran's Administration Disability Examination Provider; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ortiz generously gives of his time, energy, and resources to our city and its residents, with a special emphasis on the educational needs of deserving individuals, especially Latino students, where he works tirelessly to create awareness, opportunities, scholarships, and he continues to mentor and guide them throughout their education; he serves in various leadership positions with nonprofit organizations including the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago (KSY) and its successful Education Foundation, serving for many years as its Vice President and President, and where he has been instrumental in the organization's goal of enhancing the Latin culture and in awarding over \$2 million in scholarships, he serves with the Knights with a Heart that brings joy to hospital patients, Feeding Tampa Bay, Metropolitan Ministries, and more; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ortiz is greatly admired for his service and commitment to the Tampa Bay community, his leadership, dedication, and genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others, and he is an inspirational role model, and certainly deserving of being named the **2023 Hispanic Man of the Year**.

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, October 27, 2023, as

DR. RAMON ORTIZ, HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR DAY

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending, and thanking him for his outstanding service and contributions to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 27th day of October 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor