

# Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, is centered below the title. It features a circular design with a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887". The word "MASCOTTE" is also visible.

*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the American Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have served their country in times of peace and war, and their sacrifices and brave efforts have protected the rights and safety of all American citizens, and they are owed our gratitude and support; and

**WHEREAS**, the veterans of our nation contribute substantially to the prosperity and success of their communities through public service, volunteerism, philanthropic endeavors, and culturally, and they are valued business owners and entrepreneurs who provide a variety of services; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2015, the first week in November has been designated as **National Veterans Small Business Week**, and it provides the opportunity to honor and celebrate the contributions veterans have made and continue to make in America's small business sector and their impact on our nation's economic well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, there are approximately 2 million businesses owned by veterans of our armed forces that employ more than 3.5 million people with an annual payroll of \$176 billion, and in the state of Florida, it is reported there are about 186,000 veteran owned firms that generate 57.7 billion in annual sales, and according to the United States Census Bureau, there are over 92,000 veterans residing in Hillsborough County with more than 400 of them operating their own businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the nonprofit Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses (FAVOB) is an organization of over 450 veteran members and patriotic supporters throughout Florida including the Tampa Chapter, and it advocates, educates, and connects veteran-owned businesses to economic opportunity with a mission that includes promoting and uniting the many established and start-up businesses that are owned by veterans and disabled veterans throughout Florida, and encouraging and helping them successfully grow their companies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa is pleased to join with the Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses, and other supportive organizations in bringing awareness of the vast contributions of veteran-owned businesses in our nation, state, and city.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 30 – November 3, 2023, as

## **“NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to thank our American Veterans for their dedication and service, recognize the enormous contributions they have made on behalf of us all, and make the effort to support veteran owned businesses whenever possible.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor