

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa recognizes the proud and dutiful service rendered by the men and women who valiantly served on board the United States of America's **USS Sierra AD-18**, a Dixie-class destroyer tender named after the Sierra Mountain Range in eastern California; and

WHEREAS, it is a source of pride for our community that the United States Navy's USS Sierra AD-18 was laid down (formal recognition of the ship's construction) on December 31, 1941, by the Tampa Shipbuilding Company, and launched in Tampa, Florida on February 23, 1943; and

WHEREAS, the USS Sierra AD-18's service began in the Pacific War, the theater of World War II that was fought in eastern Asia, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and Oceania, where she was stationed at various times in Pearl Harbor, Manus Island in the Admiralties, Purvis Bay in the Solomon Islands, Ulithi in the Caroline Islands, and Pedro Bay in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, also known as *The Ship with the Helping Hands*, the USS Sierra A-18's mission was to provide important service and support for the destroyers and warships in, or near battle areas and to keep them fit for duty, an invaluable task during wartime, and her many deployments during the War and Postwar time periods provided much needed service that continued for many years until she was decommissioned on October 15, 1993, after a stellar career; and

WHEREAS, the **USS Sierra AD-18 Veterans Association**, comprised of approximately 700 shipmate members, is dedicated to its motto *In Remembrance of a Great Ship and Her Able Crew*, and its mission includes remembering and paying tribute to the thousands of individuals who honorably served on board the USS Sierra AD-18 during World War II, and for nearly five decades thereafter with its main missions in Guantanamo Bay, Norfolk, Hampton Roads, Panama Canal, San Pedro, Pearl Harbor, Shanghai and Sicily; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is pleased to recognize the service of the USS Sierra and its personnel during the 80th Anniversary of her launching in our city in 1943.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2023, as

"USS SIERRA AD-18 DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in expressing gratitude to all who have served on the USS Sierra and to the USS Sierra AD-18 Veterans Association for preserving this valued history and honoring those who have served.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7th day of November 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor