

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; **Dr. Ronald L. Vaughn**, beloved President of the University of Tampa (UT) and valued Community Leader is one such person; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vaughn received a Bachelor of Marketing degree and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Marketing from Indiana State University and earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University of Georgia, and thereafter opened his own consulting company, and he received additional education from the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vaughn was a faculty member of Bradley University prior to making Tampa, Florida his home in 1984, when he joined the University of Tampa in the marketing department and holder of the Max H. Hollinsworth Endowed Chair of American Enterprise, he became Dean of the Sykes College of Business, and in 1995, he was named President of the University of Tampa where his vision has made it an esteemed and first-class university; and

WHEREAS, to say Dr. Vaughn made a considerable impact for nearly thirty years is an understatement as his accomplishments are significant including his master plan that brought a struggling university with few buildings and 1,420 students to its current enrollment of over 11,000 within its 100-acre complex featuring over 70 buildings, offering 200 programs of study; he led two highly successful capital campaigns netting \$250 million, he launched a third for the creation of a 460,000 square-foot multipurpose building, and the University has received acclaim nationally and globally including been named in Princeton Reviews' *List of Best Colleges*, and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings listed UT as a top university for its learning experience, diversity, internationalization, research and employability; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vaughn has lent his wisdom and leadership skills to numerous community organizations including serving as President of the Tampa Bay Chapter of The Planning Forum, of the Florida West Coast Chapter of the American Marketing Association, and of the Sunshine State Athletic Conference, and as Chairman of the American Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter and of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida; he has received many well-deserved honors including the very prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society's *Medal of Honor*, named CEO Magazine's *Community Action CEO of the Year*, Tampa Bay Business Journal's *Business Executive of the Year*, Tampa Bay Lightning's *Community Heroes Award*, Delta Sigma Pi's *National Career Achievement Award*, the National Society for Experiential Education's *William M. Burke Presidential Award*, he is a *Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame Inductee*, Preserve Vision Florida's *Person of Vision Award*, the Hillsborough County Bar Association's *Liberty Bell Award*, and the UT's *Vaughn Center* is named in his honor; and

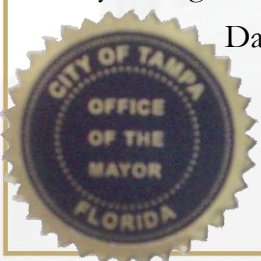
WHEREAS, self-described as a "student of change," Dr. Vaughn is well-known as a true champion for higher education, a thoughtful visionary, results oriented, and for his ability to elevate those around him and give credit to others for their contributions, especially his wife Renée, who has worked tirelessly alongside him to enact the University's growth, prestige, and identity, and his leadership will be greatly missed as he retires as President of the University of Tampa after 29 years of outstanding service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 22, 2024, as

"DR. RONALD L. VAUGHN DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his contributions to the University of Tampa and our city during his tenure, and in wishing him all the best and continued success in his future endeavors.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 22nd day of February, 2024.



Jane Castor
Mayor