

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, older Americans, those 65 years and older, account for approximately 17.3 percent of the total population, and they are trailblazers who have paved the way for future generations while leading by example and offering the benefits of the lessons learned from their life experiences and contributions; and

WHEREAS, older persons serve as advocates and mentors, and they volunteer in community service roles making a real difference in the daily lives of fellow citizens of all ages while promoting and strengthening the American spirit of civic participation, and they are working longer, remaining a vital part of the labor force; and

WHEREAS, older Americans make a significant difference in strengthening our communities through their valuable insight, gifts of wisdom, and by sharing their talents, experiences, and accomplishments with all generations, and they nourish the bonds between neighbors, creating a better place to live, and **Older Americans Month** was established in 1963 by the late President John F. Kennedy to honor their vast contributions to our nation, and the 2024 Older American Month theme is ***Powered by Connection***, recognizing the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, older Americans are owed a debt of gratitude and we must work to ensure they age with dignity, providing home and community-based services that include health promotion, safety measures and preventive care programs that enables them to live more independently with a high quality of life, and during times of local, state, national and world events and crisis, our older and most vulnerable citizens must become a priority in ensuring their safety and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, along with many dedicated organizations serving seniors in the Tampa Bay area, the **Tampa Housing Authority (THA)** and **Hillsborough County Department of Aging** play vital roles in providing valued services for the older Americans throughout our communities, and they are committed to assisting these citizens with planning, participation, accessibility, making connections to maintain their health and happiness, helping them to thrive, remain engaged, independent and included, and the organizations bring awareness to the community about the issues our older population face; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Housing Authority, in partnership with the Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services will host an ***Older Americans Month Celebration*** on May 23, 2024, at the Oaks at Riverview Community Center whereby our beloved seniors will be honored, and the event includes a formal program, health screenings, food, and entertainment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024, as

“OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in honoring and recognizing the senior citizens in our community for the many contributions they make and have made throughout their lives to the progress and success of our city, our state, and our nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of May 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor