

# Proclamation



**Jane Castor, Mayor**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **Julianne Marie Holt**, well-known Hillsborough County Public Defender, respected Attorney, Advocate, and Community Leader is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Fort Worth, Texas and raised in West Tampa, Florida, Julianne graduated from Leto High School as an A-student, attended Hillsborough Community College (HCC), the University of South Florida (USF) earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and thereafter received her Doctor of Jurisprudence *summa cum laude* from South Texas College of Law, second in her class and where she received a listing in *Who's Who of American College Students*, and was later recognized by her alma mater for her dedication with its *Public Service Award* in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Julianne Holt has over three decades of faithfully and fairly serving the community as a public servant beginning as a Special Court Appointed Public Defender prior to her becoming the first woman elected as the Hillsborough County Public Defender with the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, and she was continually reelected throughout her tenure beginning in 1993 until her retirement in January 2025. Julianne led over 120 attorneys and a large staff handling over 4,000 cases annually, many she did personally, and she spent her career fighting for indigent defendants, treating them with the utmost respect and providing them with the best possible defense, and over the years she has elevated the status of the office of the Public Defender in Hillsborough County and throughout the state of Florida where she has advocated for resources and equity, she authored several publications, and she has earned great respect among her peers and throughout the legal system for her efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Julianne is a strong believer in education and shares her expertise and passion through her role as an adjunct professor at USF, and her advocacy for youth is evident through her leadership in many organizations such as the Children's Network of Hillsborough County and the Boys and Girls Club of Tampa Bay Foundation, and the *New Beginnings Julianne M. Holt Vocational Training Center* is named in her honor, and her expertise and roles in many organizations including the Florida Public Defender Association, DUI Counter-Attack, Hillsborough County Public Safety Coordinating Council, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Phoenix House, and much more has made an impact in the legal arena and in the well-being of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, known for her commitment to the law, education, and community service, Julianne has been recognized numerous times including honored as the *Woman of the Year* by the Zonta Club of Tampa and Hillsborough County, she earned the Tiger Bay Club of Tampa's *Lifetime Achievement Award*, Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities' *Employer of the Year Award*, Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers' *Trailblazer Award*, HCC's *Distinguished Alumni Award*, Hillsborough County NAACP's *Unsung Hero Award*, George Edgecomb Bar Association's *Diversity Award*, the Florida Tax Watch's *Davis Productivity Award* numerous times, is inducted into the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame, among many other accolades; and

**WHEREAS**, respected among the judiciary system, her peers, and the community for her passion for justice, her strong commitment to young people and education, her tenaciousness, and her strong ethics, Julianne is revered as a responsible and powerful community leader and for her tireless efforts on behalf of others, and as she retires from public service, she is to be congratulated for a tenure of excellence and for all that she has accomplished in and out of the office of Public Defender.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 17, 2025, as

## **"JULIANNE M. HOLT DAY"**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking her for her many valuable contributions to our community and in wishing her continued success and happiness in her future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.



  
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Mayor