

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, **Aphasia** is a disorder that affects how a person communicates and is defined as the loss of the ability to understand or express speech, normally caused by injury to the brain, most commonly because of a stroke, which accounts for 73 percent of those with aphasia; and

WHEREAS, a stroke is a condition caused by the interruption of blood flow to the brain, and it is estimated that between 30 to 40 percent of strokes result in aphasia, and strokes occur in approximately 795,000 people per year in the United States, and over 8,500 individuals in the Tampa community are living with aphasia due to stroke; and

WHEREAS, Aphasia can also be caused by other neurological disorders such as traumatic brain injury, tumor, or progressive disease, and while a person's inability to access language to speak, comprehend, read or write, their intelligence remains unaffected; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with aphasia may also display a right-sided weakness due to the damage on the left side of the brain, and the main treatment for aphasia involves treating the condition that causes it, as well as speech and language therapy; and

WHEREAS, because aphasia is often a sign of a serious problem, such as a stroke, awareness of certain symptoms is vital so individuals and family members can seek attention, and if indicators such as difficulty speaking, trouble understanding speech, difficulty with word recall or problems with reading or writing are present, immediate emergency medical care should be sought; and

WHEREAS, the month of June has been proclaimed **National Aphasia Awareness Month** to bring information regarding the disorder to communities throughout the United States, and to make the public aware of organizations that are committed to advocacy, education, support, rehabilitation and services including the **National Aphasia Association** and locally, the **Voices of Hope for Aphasia**, a nonprofit whose mission includes reconnecting people living with aphasia in the Tampa Bay area with their lives through innovative programs.

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 June 2025, as

"NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in becoming aware of the disorder, and thank the efforts of nonprofit organizations, physicians, and speech and language therapists for their dedication in the prevention and treatment of aphasia.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of May 2025.

Jane Castor

Mayor

