

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, West Tampa, Florida was established in 1892 when Hugh C. MacFarlane purchased land just west of the Hillsborough River for development, and within a few years, thousands of people moved into the area, and on May 18, 1895, West Tampa was incorporated, and by 1905, the robust community became Florida's fifth largest city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Tampa was annexed by the City of Tampa on January 1, 1925, and it continues to be a valued part of Tampa's success story with its vast contributions to the development of our city and the diverse cultural and historical impact it has made over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, the **West Tampa Chamber of Commerce**, originally the West Tampa Commercial Club, was established in 1918, and its mission includes providing leadership and business opportunities that foster growth and quality of life while preserving the historical values of the West Tampa community, and it supports businesses, nonprofit organizations, and members, and it encourages growth while preserving its important and significantly rich past; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce hosts signature events that bring together the entire Tampa Bay region for celebrations, awareness campaigns, and promotion of West Tampa's unique culture and its citizens, and on Thursday, November 13, 2025, the organization is hosting its **West Tampa Chamber Awards Gala** at Higgins Hall and will celebrate its establishment over a century ago, honor the West Tampa Woman and Man of the year, and will present the George Guida Legacy Award to individuals who have displayed a lifetime of outstanding community service in the West Tampa area; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's recipient of the **George Guida Legacy Award** is **Bob Henriquez**, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser who is well-known for his lifelong commitment to service as a public servant locally and as a state legislator, as a beloved coach, dedication to the West Tampa community and the preservation of its historical legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce's **2025 Woman of the Year** is **Audrey Perez**, Owner and Co-Founder of Mr. Empanada, a successful company, and she is a West Tampa native and trailblazer who worked with the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Veteran Affairs, and is chosen for her leadership in the community where she serves with several organizations including as a past West Tampa Chamber board member, and for her strong dedication to enriching the lives of others, especially in her West Tampa community; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce's **2025 Man of the Year** is **Leroy Moore**, Senior Vice-President and COO of the Tampa Housing Authority, known for his dedication, expertise, leadership, advocacy and commitment to the redevelopment of severely distressed housing communities in Tampa Bay, and for his service on local, state and national boards and other community organizations, and his impact on our community, especially serving the housing needs of our citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 13, 2025, as

**“WEST TAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS GALA DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join with the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce in this celebration and thank them for its many years of commitment and leadership that has contributed to the accomplishments and growth of our community and congratulate the deserving individuals being honored.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2025.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor