

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, celebrating its 100th Anniversary, **Tampa Bay Downs**, originally named Tampa Downs and also known as Sunshine Park, was established in Oldsmar, Florida on February 18, 1926, and it brought quality thoroughbred horse racing and more to the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Bay Downs was founded by the late Martin J. Winn (1861-1949) who was known as Colonel Matt Winn of the Kentucky Derby and who is credited with transforming thoroughbred horse racing to become an American signature event, and he partnered with investor the late Harvey Myers (1859-1933) of Ohio to bring the sport to the Tampa Bay region; and

WHEREAS, celebrating 100 seasons of racing, Tampa Bay Downs is a major sporting venture in Florida's west coast, and a destination for visitors across the United States, and is one of the longest-running professional sports enterprises in the Tampa Bay region, and is associated with quality thoroughbred horse racing and it has an extensive supportive fan base, and is known for its immaculate turf course, swaying palm trees, and family-friendly atmosphere, and has produced three winners of the Kentucky Derby; and

WHEREAS, open all year, Tampa Bay Downs also features The Silks Poker Room with live games and tournaments, The Downs Golf Practice Facility that provides Golf instruction and camps, The Silks Bar and Grille, outdoor cabanas, and more amenities that enhance fan and visitors' experiences; and

WHEREAS, the 100th racing season's opening day this year is on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, and runs through Sunday, May 3, 2026, and it features special events including five Charity Days with the proceeds benefiting local charitable organizations, the Skyway Festival Day, Live It Up Challenge, Mouse's Kids & Family Days, 100 Years in the Community Day, Florida Cup Day, Fan Appreciation Day, and other special events; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Bay Downs is hosting its *One Hundred Seasons: One Incredible Journey* and honoring its past that began as a humble track in Oldsmar that grew into a century of tradition built on speed, passion, and unforgettable moments, and it celebrates a century of contributions to the racing industry, and to the economic growth and success of the Tampa Bay area..

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 18, 2026, as

TAMPA BAY DOWNS ANNIVERSARY DAY

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Tampa Bay Downs on this significant 100th Anniversary milestone, in thanking the leadership and fans for its continued dedication, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of November 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor