

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; **Dorothy “Dotti” Groover-Skipper**, a well-respected Community Leader, Trailblazer, impactful Advocate, Visionary, and Founder and CEO of the HeartDance Foundation, and an Ordained Elder and Missionary is one such person; and

WHEREAS, raised in Miami, Florida, Dottie’s life has been influenced by her parents who instilled a strong sense of ethics, high values, and that *Everybody Matters* that became her mantra, and her passion for finding solutions and helping victims of human trafficking began over three decades ago when she chanced upon two young girls and where her insight changed their lives, and she began her path to making a significant difference; and

WHEREAS, she is dedicated to *dynamic living through servant leadership* and her realization that human trafficking was an epidemic problem throughout the world, in the United States, and in Florida. Dotti began her journey for advocacy, and she founded the HeartDance Foundation, a nonprofit that assists men, women, and children to reclaim dignity, value, and worth by shining the love of God in the darkest of places in our city, and it is dedicated to helping those recovering from the sex trade industry, labor exploitation, addiction, incarceration, and other traumatic life experiences; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of South Florida and the Department of Homeland Security Investigation Citizens Academy, Dotti is a driving force for policy change, and her expertise extends to training law enforcement agencies, school districts, businesses, and civic and faith-based organizations, and along with leading the HeartDance Foundation, she is the Anti-Trafficking Director of the NOMORE Foundation, serves as the Chair of the Safe Alliance of Tampa Bay Board of Directors, and she provides leadership and expertise in organizations that fulfill her mission including as the Salvation Army Florida’s Anti-Trafficking Director, and her appointments include the Florida Board of Massage Therapy, the Florida Drug Policy Advisory Council, the Florida Drug Policy Advisory Council and the Hillsborough County Status on Women and Human Trafficking Commissions; and

WHEREAS, Dotti, beloved and recognized by all, she has received the Hillsborough County Commission of the Status of Women’s *Achievement Award*, University of Tampa’s *Ethics Award*, the South Tampa Chamber’s *2024 Citizen of the Year*, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida’s *Woman of Distinction*, a Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation *Community Hero*, received the University of Tampa’s *Ethics Award*, Zonta International’s *Human Trafficking Victims Advocate*, Florida Status on Women’s *Florida Achievement Award*, she is listed as *100 Women to Know in America*, named a *Woman of Impact* by the National KNOW WOMEN organization, and more, and she is most worthy of earning the induction into the **2024 Florida Women’s Hall of Fame**.

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

“DOTTI GROOVE-SKIPPER DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating her on the 2024 induction into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame, in recognizing her many contributions to the well-being of others, thanking her for making a difference in our community, and wishing her continued success in her future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 13th day of October 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor