

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels, a national program since 1954, consists of a network of over 5,000 community-based organizations across the United States supported by the leadership organization, Meals on Wheels America that assists with funding, advocacy, research, and other support efforts, and their mission includes to nourish, enrich and strengthen the lives of seniors and individuals who have difficulty leaving their homes and are challenged to prepare meals; and

WHEREAS, **Meals on Wheels of Tampa**, a privately funded and Four-Star Charity, was established in 1975, founded by the late Tampa native Gloria Fuentes who, through her own personal family situation, recognized the need to help others who wanted to remain independent, so she formed a committee of pastors and church members to help organize the efforts to assist their needs, and the organization's vision is to ***eliminate hunger, isolation and loss of independence for the homebound and seniors in our community***; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Tampa began 50 years ago with compassionate volunteers who cooked meals in the recreation hall of a local church, and delivered them to 14 people who were homebound, and since that time, it has grown substantially, benefitting so many in the Tampa Bay community who would otherwise lose independence and perhaps not have the nutrition needed for optimum health; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Meals on Wheels of Tampa, through community support was able to purchase their own facility on West Hillsborough Avenue to house its kitchen and administrative offices, and in 2006, through a capital campaign, a renovation took place for a commercial grade kitchen, which enabled the organization to further its mission of reaching even more people in need of nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of its five decades of dedicated service to the Tampa Bay community, Meals on Wheels of Tampa is hosting its **50th Anniversary Celebration** on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at the Bob Buckhorn River Center in downtown Tampa, and the special event will provide an opportunity for the organization to thank CEO Steve King for his many years of service, introduce its new leadership, honor the many dedicated volunteers, sponsors and supporters, and it is a time to reflect on all that has been accomplished over the past 50 years, most especially the many lives that have been positively impacted by their efforts, and to plan for the future of the organization's mission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is pleased to congratulate Meals on Wheels of Tampa organization and all who are involved in impacting the well-being of those needing assistance in our community.

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, November 5, 2025, as

“MEALS ON WHEELS 50TH ANNIVERSARY DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in congratulating Meals on Wheels of Tampa on this milestone 50th Anniversary, in thanking them for their commitment to others, and in wishing them continued success in their future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of October 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor