Proclamation

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, providing the very best quality care to those with chronic or terminal illness, individuals with disabilities, or those who require a caregiver to assist with health maintenance and everyday basic needs is essential for their optimum well-being; and

WHEREAS, **National Family Caregivers Month** was proclaimed by former President William (Bill) J. Clinton in 1997, and its purpose is to recognize the more than 60 million people across the United States who devote their time, energy, and love to supporting a family member or friend with health needs; and

WHEREAS, each day, in homes across Florida, more than four million caregivers help older parents, spouses, neighbors, friends, and other loved ones live independently in their homes and in their communities, rather than relying on more costly institutional care, saving taxpayers billions of dollars, and providing a vital lifeline of connection and hope to loved ones during challenging and uncertain times; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 National Family Caregiver Awareness Month theme is ***Care Connects Us***, and it reflects the reality that family caregiving is not always convenient or expected and may occur through the sudden onset of a loved one's illness, injury, or disability; caregivers devote immeasurable time, energy, resources, and efforts, frequently with little reprieve for themselves, and their health is often impacted, including physically, psychologically, emotionally, and financially; and

WHEREAS, locally, AARP in the Tampa Bay region and throughout the state provides resources through many partners to support caregivers and their loved ones, providing financial, emotional, and physical support, including food programs, acquiring assistive technology and equipment, and they endeavor to bring awareness of the issues that are confronted by caregivers, and seek to inspire others to act in support of dedicated unpaid caregivers in our community, state, and nation.

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 November 2026, as

"NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of caregivers and their dedication to those whose health and well-being depend heavily upon them.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29th day of October 2026.

Jane Castor

Mayor