

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the needs of fellowship and assistance for millions of Americans are areas of primary concern for innumerable social and fraternal organizations throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded in Baltimore, Maryland on April 26, 1819 and received its charter from Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England. It became the first national fraternity to include both men and women when it adopted the Rebekah Degree on September 20, 1851; and

**WHEREAS**, today this worldwide fraternity operates in 26 countries and continues their mission of striving to make the world a better place in which to live, seeking to improve and elevate the character of mankind; and

**WHEREAS**, as the first fraternal organization to establish homes for senior members and for orphaned children, the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs today supports such projects as cancer research, visual research and annually provides an educational scholarship for a worthy Florida student; and

**WHEREAS**, Grand Lodge of Florida I.O.O.F. and Rebekahs will hold its annual convention in Tampa, Florida during the week of May 15-20, 2011; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 15 – 20, 2011 as

## ***“ODD FELLOW-REBEKAH WEEK”***

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in acknowledging the many efforts of this organization and in wishing them continued success in their future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

