

In Memoriam



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay area experienced another casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom with the death of United States Army First Lieutenant Dimitri A. del Castillo on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at age 24; and

WHEREAS, 1st Lt. del Castillo was assigned to the 1st Platoon, B Company, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and was deployed in April 2011 to Afghanistan, serving as a rifle platoon leader. He was fatally wounded while on patrol in the mountains of Kunar Province when his unit came under small-arms fire, and although he was wounded, he continued to radio for support; and

WHEREAS, a well respected and dedicated officer, 1st Lt. del Castillo distinguished himself through courage and determination, and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal and the NATO Medal; and

WHEREAS, born in North Carolina, Dimitri grew up and attended high school in Katy, Texas, and spent his summers in Tampa when his family relocated several years ago. He became interested in serving in the military after meeting an uncle who was a graduate of West Point, and thereafter he applied and was accepted; and

WHEREAS, entering West Point as cadets in 2005, he met Katie Pulliam and they were commissioned as officers in May 2009. Katie and Dimitri married in Tampa, Florida in December 2010, and both served as first lieutenants in the same brigade, but separate battalions, and deployed to Afghanistan at the same time; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "The Wind," he was known for his energetic, fun-loving spirit, and passion for sports and outdoor activities, particularly biking, basketball and soccer. Dimitri played soccer wing on an all-district champion team while in high school, and played fly-half on West Point's rugby team; and

WHEREAS, proud to be serving his country, 1st Lt. del Castillo had planned a long military career of service, aspired to join the Special Forces or the Central Intelligence Agency, and wanted to eventually call Tampa home; and

WHEREAS, although we are grieved at the loss of this heroic young man with so much promise, we can be sure that he was proud to be serving his nation in this time of conflict and can hope that his family and many friends will take solace in the many memories that remain.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to his wife Katie, his parents Carlos and Catherine, the other family members and many friends of Dimitri A. del Castillo – he may be gone, but his memory will live on through the better, freer world he has helped create for all of us.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of June, 2011.



Mayor

