

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens, Betty P. Wiggins is undeniably one such person; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Monticello, Florida, Betty Wiggins graduated as valedictorian of her class from Howard Academy High School at the age of 16. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Florida A&M University and her Master's Degree in Education from the University of South Florida. Betty began her career as an educator in Hillsborough County teaching at the junior and senior high school levels until 1968 when she moved into the private sector as a specialist and manager in human resources for General Electric, where she earned the distinction of being the first African American woman to hold a management position in the Pinellas Plant facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Betty opened her own printing and public relations company, B.P. Brown Enterprises, Inc., the first African American woman in the Tampa community to succeed in the printing industry, and the valuable history created by the printed documents the firm produced for community clubs, churches, governmental agencies, businesses and organizations are preserved in the Betty P. Brown Wiggins Collection housed at the University of South Florida, and it is significant for its historical portrayal of the everyday lives of people in Tampa's African American community from 1984 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, one of the Tampa's most notable community activists and a former Tampa City Council member, she is known for inspiring self-help initiatives, and assuming leadership roles working passionately for the improvement and benefit of the citizens and neighborhoods of Tampa, and has championed for the East Tampa community for decades. She has been an instrumental and guiding force for the East Tampa Business and Civic Association for almost 20 years, and led the East Tampa Community Revitalization Committee in several projects, including the development of the criteria for the naming of the Herbert D. Carrington Sr. and the Robert L. Cole Sr. Community Lakes after two long-time activists and businessmen, and she serves as Director and Vice President for both the Tampa Development Consortium, Inc., and is president of BPW Consulting, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she led the local Gamma Theta Omega Chapter to purchase the AKA House located in historic Tampa Heights, and the Chapter named the Betty P. Wiggins Scholarship in her honor as a tribute to her outstanding service over the years, for her commitment to youth education, and for her many programs she initiated that inspired African American students to pursue non-traditional careers. Ms. Wiggins received the Tampa/Hillsborough Human Rights Council's Human Rights Award in 2003, and in March 2005, she was honored with the City of Tampa Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award for her many years of dedicated service to the Tampa community; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2011 at the Herbert D. Carrington Sr. Community Lake on her beloved 34th Street, family and friends will come together to celebrate and honor Betty for all that she has accomplished, and to recognize that she has made a significant impact on the Tampa community, and has been the inspiration for so many people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 19, 2011 as

"BETTY P. WIGGINS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking her for her valuable contributions to our community and to her continued happiness and success in all her endeavors.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of August, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor