

In Memoriam



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay area experienced another casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom with the death of United States Army Private First Class Christophe Joel Marquis on Sunday, September 4, 2011 at age 40; and

WHEREAS, PFC Marquis was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011, serving in the Kandahar province. He was injured on August 27, 2011 when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device, and he later died at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, just four days before his second wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS, born on January 25, 1971, Christophe grew up in Strasbourg, France and joined the French Army at age 18 serving for five years before moving to Normandy to become a business owner, and then, after visiting the area, he moved to the Seminole Heights community in Tampa, Florida in 2008 and opened the 502 Sports Café in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, to provide a better life for his wife and new son, Christophe joined the Army in April 2010 and graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and arrived in Alaska in February 2011 just prior to his deployment with the 4,000-soldier brigade; and

WHEREAS, a well respected and dedicated soldier, Pfc. Marquis distinguished himself through courage and determination, and 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 Brittany, son Christopher, mother Francine Soucat and father Joel Marquis, the other family members and many friends of Christophe Joel Marquis – 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 17th day of September, 2011.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

