

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, from the earliest records of civilization, man has traveled the waters and has relied upon the expertise of pilots to assure safe passage, provide assistance and navigation to seaman approaching or leaving the seacoast; and

WHEREAS, one of the earliest pilots, Anton De Alaminos, chief pilot aboard Ponce de Leon's ship and a part of Columbus' last voyage, established the existence of the Gulf Stream and is credited with the discovery of Tampa Bay, and the pilots that followed played a vital role in the settling of Tampa, Florida and the entire bay area by allowing safe shipping traffic, including Tampa Bay Pilot Captain Fogarty, the original captain of Henry B. Plant's steamship the *Mascotte*, which brought thousands of immigrants and shipments of Havana, Cuba tobacco, and helped to make Tampa the "Cigar Capital of the World;" and

WHEREAS, established in 1886, the Tampa Bay Pilots Association originally waited for ships at the lighthouse on Egmont Key, its height allowing the pilots to see approaching ships from a great distance, and even today the profession of piloting remains largely unchanged, offering the same critical judgment and unsurpassed familiarity with the land, sea, and ever-changing elements, and the association is currently comprised of 23 highly-skilled and trained harbor pilots that service the ports of Tampa, Manatee and St. Petersburg, assist local, state and federal authorities with seaport development, new ship operations and port security, and brings an economic impact to the area of \$15 billion and 130,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the Tampa Bay Pilots Association is "Safe Passage Throughout Tampa Bay" and its mission includes its dedication in providing the highest quality of reliable, efficient and modern pilotage services that are essential to the economy and public health and safety of the Tampa Bay region, and they are entrusted to preserve and protect the Tampa Bay ports, population and environment to the fullest extent possible, facilitating and promoting the safe and efficient flow of commercial vessel traffic throughout the waters of Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, in honor of their 125th Anniversary, the Tampa Bay Pilots Association will host a Celebration Reception on December 14, 2011 at the Tampa Yacht and County Club and will reflect on the contributions made to the maritime industry and the citizens of the Tampa Bay area that they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 14, 2011 as

"TAMPA BAY PILOTS ASSOCIATION DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating the Tampa Bay Pilots Association on this significant milestone and thanking all those that have been involved in this organization through the years for their commitment to the safety and welfare of our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 12th day of December, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor