

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, nearly 2 million people in the United States are living with limb loss, and approximately 185,000 amputations are performed each year across the country due to vascular diseases such as diabetes, trauma, tumors, and cancer, and statistics show that 60 percent of limb loss is preventable; and

WHEREAS, more and more American service men and women are living with limb loss as a result of injuries sustained during their dedicated efforts in protecting freedom worldwide; and

WHEREAS, it is known that peer support and widespread public education regarding the challenges for people with living with limb loss makes a major contribution to creating a positive atmosphere for recovery, and plays an important role in reducing stigmas associated with limb loss; and

WHEREAS, Florida's first limb loss support group, Amputees Together was founded by Westcoast Brace & Limb in Tampa, Florida, and for two decades has remained the leading model for encouraging amputees to be active participants in their community, providing emotional support, information, education, and networking and social opportunities for people living with limb loss; and

WHEREAS, Westcoast Brace & Limb, along with organizations such as the James A. Haley and Bay Pines Veterans' Hospitals, Paralympic Sport Tampa Bay, Peg Leg Pirates, Wounded Warrior Foundation, Heroes on the Water, Challenged Athletes Foundation, and many others offer unique programs to support patients, veterans, and all those affected with limb loss; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2012 in recognition of National Limb Loss Awareness Month, Westcoast Brace & Limb, a family owned Tampa company that has been creating customized, life-like artificial limbs for adults and children for more than 40 years, will host "Advances in Upper Limb Technology," an educational program designed to highlight the latest advancements available for amputees and those affected with upper extremity pathologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2012 as

"LIMB LOSS AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the challenges those affected with limb loss face, and applaud the efforts of the many organizations dedicated to helping those living with limb loss.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 25th day of April, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

