

In Memoriam



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay area experienced another casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom with the death of United States Army Staff Sergeant Ricardo Seija on Monday, July 9, 2012 at age 31; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Seija was assigned to the 978th Military Police Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas and was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2012, serving in the Maidan Wardak Province. He was the only one of six in the unit to initially survive when their armored vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, but later died in the hospital; the bombing was one of the deadliest attacks on soldiers from Fort Bliss in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, born on May 21, 1981, Ricardo grew up in Chicago, Illinois and moved to Tampa, Florida as a teenager, attending Leto High School where he enjoyed being part of the wrestling team, and graduated early in 2000 so that he could enlist in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, known for his love of the Army and commitment to serving his country, Staff Sergeant Seija planned to make the military his career and had the opportunity to serve in Korea, Germany and Puerto Rico before his deployment to Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, a well respected and dedicated soldier, Staff Sergeant Seija 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 Sunny, son Ricardo, Jr., mother Ignacia and father Ricardo, brothers Jose and Luis, other family members, and many friends of Ricardo Seija – 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 July, 2012.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

City of
Tampa
Florida