

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 Matthew S. Sitton on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at age 26; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matt Sitton was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was deployed to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on his birthday February 28, 2102, his third career deployment. He was killed in action when he encountered an enemy improvised explosive device while on foot patrol one month before his schedule return home; and

WHEREAS, born on February 28, 1986, Matt grew up in Largo, Florida and graduated from Indian Rocks Christian School in 2004, where as a great athlete and passionate baseball fan, he was a star center fielder for the high school's baseball team; and

WHEREAS, his love and commitment to his country led Staff Sergeant Sitton to join the United States Army on March 2, 2006 and the military was to be his career; he was well-known as a proficient leader, respected and loved by those that served beside him, and he was very proud to be a Ranger and a member of the Infantry; and

WHEREAS, among his many recognitions, Staff Sergeant Sitton was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with one knot, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon with the numeral two, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished and dedicated soldier, Staff Sergeant Sitton 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 Sarah, young son Brodey, mother Cheryl and father Steve, brothers Jonathan and Cody, sister Jessica McMahan, other family members, and many friends of Matt Sitton – 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 10th day of August, 2012.



Mayor

