

# Proclamation



**Bob Buckhorn, Mayor**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens, **Olin Mott**, military hero, businessman, philanthropist and civic leader is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, born March 5, 1921 in Coffee, Georgia, Mr. Mott joined the United States Army, serving in Army-Navy Intelligence and was wounded while stationed at Pearl Harbor during the December 7, 1941 attack by the Japanese, and his service to his country during World War II earned him numerous decorations, including the Purple Heart, and he remains the sole survivor of his 80-man unit; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning his career in the tire industry as a clerk for a retread equipment manufacturer, Mr. Mott taught himself all aspects of the business and soon became General Manager, bringing the company from the fifth largest to second in the nation. Upon deciding to establish his own business, he chose Tampa, Florida, and founded Olin Mott Tire Company in 1955, a company that has enjoyed a reputation for providing the Tampa Bay community with quality tire products and service for almost 60 years; and

**WHEREAS**, a pillar of our community, Mr. Mott has built a reputation for his dedication to the Tampa Bay area with his many contributions including co-founding Joshua House, founding the East Hillsborough Optimist Club and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Posse, providing leadership to the Future Farmers of America programs, serving on the Florida State Fair Foundation and Florida State Fair Authority boards, and supporting the Hillsborough County 4H Clubs, Youth Soccer, Florida Junior Rodeo Association, and the Dream Center in East Tampa; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mott's dedication to education in the community has been evident through his significant involvement, gifts and support for Hillsborough County Schools including Central City Elementary School, and the University of South Florida (USF) where he was instrumental in securing the location for the university and in the campaign to bring football to USF, and has been a major supporter and donor to the Athletics Department, College of Business and College of Education throughout the years; and

**WHEREAS**, among Mr. Mott's many well-deserved recognitions he received the *JC Penny Golden Rule Award* in 1992, Children's Home Society of Florida *Child Advocate of Year Award* in 1993, Tampa Civitan *Citizen of the Year Award* in 2001, United Way of Tampa Bay's *Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2006, USF Alumni Association's *Alumni of '56' Award* in 2009, USF's President's Distinguished Citizens Award in 2011, and the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce *2011 Small Business Outstanding Leader of the Year Award*; and

**WHEREAS**, on Thursday, November 15, 2012, the University of South Florida, College of Education will host its **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Education in Action Luncheon** honoring **Olin Mott: A Champion for Education** at the Florida State Fairgrounds and will take the opportunity to recognize his many accomplishments.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2012 as

## **"OLIN MOTT DAY"**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating him on this significant recognition, thanking him for his dedication to the citizens of our community and wishing him continued happiness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor