

In Memoriam



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. One of these individuals was Salvatore (Sammy) Arena, an entertainer and beloved native of Tampa, Florida who passed away on Wednesday, December 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, born on September 1, 1931 in the old Centro Asturiano Hospital, Sammy grew up in Ybor City with four siblings, including his twin brother Andrew (Andy), and attended George Washington Junior High School where his talent for singing and entertaining began to blossom; and

WHEREAS, Sammy served his country during the Korean War as a Machine Gun Sergeant in the United States Army, and continued to serve after his discharge by performing with United Service Organizations (USO) for 37 years, and was honored by the United States Government with the prestigious Great American Award for his many years of dedication; and

WHEREAS, known for his gifted voice and entertainment abilities, high level of professionalism, positive attitude and enthusiasm, Sammy began his successful music career in the 1950's. Together with his brother Andy the duo were known as "Tampa's first recording artists" and recorded fourteen records, including "**Mama Cara Mama**" and performed at Tampa's Festa Italiana in Ybor City and the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts as well as across the nation in places like Miami, Las Vegas, and the Catskill Mountains in New York, singing in English, Italian, Spanish and Yiddish. Sammy and Andy Arena performed their last show together August 5, 2012 at the Centro Asturiano de Tampa in Ybor City to a near sell-out audience; and

WHEREAS, a developer and builder, Sammy also created condominiums, shopping centers and houses, and was co-founder of Arena Tile and Stone, Incorporated. He was a proud lifetime member of the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago, and after receiving a kidney transplant in 1994, he became an active supporter of the LifeLink Foundation and participated in the annual Transplant Games; and

WHEREAS, although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the beautiful music he made, the improvements he brought to our community, and in all those who lives he has touched.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the 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 Salvatore Arena's Family, his sons Salvatore Jr., James and Christopher, Grandchildren, brothers Andrew and Anthony, sister Marie, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2012.



Mayor

