

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom Operation and Operation New Dawn (Operation Iraqi Freedom) the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida has had a marked increase in the number of wounded and injured active duty members referred to the facility for treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) had observed that families traveled from across the nation to be with their loved ones during this critical time, providing an important role in their recovery, and with the average patient stay of 45 days, many families were in need of support and assistance, so in 2004 **Operation Helping Hand** was established; and

**WHEREAS**, while the soldiers recover from injuries, wounds, and illness, Operation Helping Hand offers assistance to family members during their stay in Tampa, allowing them to focus on their loved one's healing and includes help with lodging, rental cars, gas discount coupons, phone cards, tickets to area amusement sites and movie theaters, gift certificates to restaurants and grocery stores, and in some cases helping with mortgage and bills back home; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, Operation Helping Hand sponsors military medal and retirement ceremony receptions, and hosts a monthly dinner to honor the wounded and injured active duty patients by recognizing their service and sacrifices; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2012, Operation Helping Hand will celebrate its **100<sup>th</sup> Monthly Dinner** held at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, and will take the opportunity to reflect on the past eight years of providing assistance for over 750 active duty military patients and their families; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 20, 2012 as

## **“OPERATION HELPING HAND DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in thanking the volunteers and supporters of this organization for their dedication to those that have sacrificed for our country's freedom and their families.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor