

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 William H. “Bill” McBride, Jr., one of Tampa’s most beloved citizens, well-known attorney and politician, who passed away on Saturday, December 22, at age 67; and

WHEREAS, born on May 10, 1945 in Belleville, Illinois, Bill McBride grew up in Leesburg, Florida, played football for Leesburg High School where he was named “Mr. Leesburg High” and during this time, he attended Boy’s State, a summer leadership program for high school students where he ran a successful campaign for Governor at the event; and

WHEREAS, Bill McBride was proud to be a 1967 University of Florida (UF) graduate where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and served as treasurer of Florida Blue Key honor society, president of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and was inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame and selected for Who’s Who in Colleges and Universities; and

WHEREAS, in service to the country he loved, Bill McBride rose through the ranks as Company Commander and Combined Unit Leader in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 through 1971, earning a Bronze Star with a Combat V for valor for his service during the Vietnam War, and thereafter taught at Officers Candidates School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, retiring as Captain. He returned to the University of Florida Law School after his honorable discharge where he graduated in 1975 with honors; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Florida Bar and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Bill McBride began his illustrious career in law by joining the prestigious Holland & Knight firm and ultimately served as managing partner from 1992 to 2001 when he retired to run for Governor of Florida. He was credited with the organization’s growth, building it to the seventh-largest in the United States and, as a man who believed strongly in equality, established a pro bono office for worthy cases, and was well known for his leadership, integrity, and generosity he showed his clients and those he worked with. Bill McBride was a senior partner with the law firm of Barnett, Bolt, Kirkwood, Long & McBride, and served on the board for several organizations including Hyde Park Capital Partners, LLC, the University of Florida Law School, UF Entrepreneur Institute, UF Foundation, Florida Holocaust Museum, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and United Way of Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, a true leader in the Tampa Bay community, an advocate for education and civil rights, and known as a passionate public servant who cared deeply for his fellow citizens, Bill McBride received many well deserved recognitions including the Jewish National Fund’s *Tree of Life Award*, National Conference of Christian and Jews’ *Silver Medallion Award*, Prevent Blindness of Florida’s *Person of Vision Award*, Hillsborough Association of Retarded Citizens’ *Outstanding Citizen Award*, NAACP’s *Robert Saunders Leadership Award*, the Supreme Court of the United States’ *National Pro Bono Award*, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Individual Human Rights and Community Service Award* among many others; and

WHEREAS, Bill McBride was especially known as a devoted and loving father, husband and family man. Although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, Bill McBride’s legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community, and in all those whose lives he has touched; and

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 the William H. McBride, Jr. family, his wife Adelaide, son William Albert, daughter Lexi McBride Crawford, mother Patricia Sweat, sister Cheryle, brother Paul 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 community.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor