

# 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 Frederick Brennan Karl, one of Tampa's most beloved citizens, decorated war hero, and well-known public servant, who passed away on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at age 88; and

**WHEREAS**, a Florida native, Fred Karl was born on May 14, 1924 in Daytona Beach, attended local schools and worked at an early age delivering newspapers and at the local drugstore. He attended the University of Florida before joining the United States Army in 1942, serving the country he loved as a Tank Platoon Leader with the 20<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Divisions, earning a Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart after being wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. He returned to Florida after his discharge to earn his Law Degree from Stetson University College of Law, and thereafter worked as a City Attorney for Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred Karl believed there is no higher form of public service than the honest practice of politics and he began his illustrious political career in the Florida Legislature in 1956 when elected to the Florida House of Representatives, then the Florida Senate in 1968, and he was known for his high ethical standards, unquestionable integrity, a man of the people, who championed for fairness and equality for all Florida citizens, and for setting the tone for open government. In 1974, he became Florida's first Public Counsel and in 1977 won a seat to the Florida Supreme Court, the last Justice elected before it became an appointed position; and

**WHEREAS**, his indelible imprint on the Tampa, Florida community began in 1988 when he served Hillsborough County as County Attorney and then as County Administrator, where he created the area's first waste-to-energy facility, consolidated county government offices into one building, was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey Team, Tampa Bay Times Forum and George Steinbrenner Field, and initiated the hiring of minorities to county positions. Recognized for his intelligence and as a problem solver, Fred Karl became Tampa General Hospital's President in 1994, elevating it to one of the top hospitals in the southern region of the United States through his vision and leadership, and he was appointed by Mayor Pam Iorio as the City of Tampa Attorney in 2003. Mr. Karl authored several books including "*My War*" a self-published autobiography, and "*The 57 Club: My Four Decades in Florida Politics*" published in 2010, and his historical writings, documents and files have been preserved in the Frederick B. Karl Collection housed at the University of South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred Karl served on numerous community boards and councils, and naming only a few of the many richly deserved honors bestowed to him include the Frederick B. Karl County Center and Stetson University College of Law's Frederick B. Karl Veterans Scholarship being named in his honor, receiving the Florida Education Association's School Bell Award, voted by fellow Legislators as the Most Effect Member in Committee of Senate and Debate in Senate, inducted into Stetson University's Hall of Fame, awarded its Ben C. Willis Award and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, Tampa Organization of Black Affairs' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Corporate Leadership Award, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Effective Government Award, Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross' Vaughn Humanitarian Award, State of Florida's Great Floridian Award, and he is listed in Who's Who in America; and

**WHEREAS**, with all that Fred Karl accomplished for the Tampa Bay area and his lifetime of commitment to public service and equality, our city would not be the vibrant and world-class place it is today, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, a man who represented the best in all of us, his legacy will continue to live on through 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 the Frederick B. Karl Family, his wife Mercedes, sons Frederick, Jr. and James, daughters Linda, Cynthia, Mary, Debbie, and Tami, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, 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, in our state and in our nation.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor