

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 **Dr. Victor J. Martinez**, a well-respected and beloved surgeon who passed away on Monday, July 1, 2013 at age 78; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native born on July 27, 1934, the son of Spanish immigrants, Dr. Martinez spent his youth reading, and playing the piano and violin, and he excelled in academics at Jefferson High School where he, older brother Danny and lifelong friend Ferdie Pacheco were known as the *Tampa Bananas*; and

WHEREAS, suffering from severe asthma as a child inspired him to become a doctor, and he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida where he was a member of the prestigious Florida Blue Key, and he went on to earn his medical degree from the University of Miami, where he was named to the Iron Arrow Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martinez began his illustrious career in medicine with his residency and internship at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida, and practiced general, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, and he became a pioneer in the field of heart surgery by being the first surgeon to perform an aorta coronary bypass procedure at the institution. He also served his country by fulfilling his military duties as the Deputy Chief of Surgery at the United States Public Health Service's Marine Hospital in Staten Island, New York as a United States Navy Commander; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in the establishment of the medical school at the University of South Florida, now known as the Morsani College of Medicine, Dr. Martinez served as its Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, and in 1972 was appointed by former Governor Reuben Askew to the Florida State Board of Medical Examiners, the first Hispanic appointed, and during his career he advocated for quality health care for indigent patients and was dedicated to the issues during his tenure as Medical Director for the Hillsborough County Indigent Health Care Plan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martinez returned to the University of Miami to earn his Law Degree and was a member of the Florida Bar, the American Society of Law and Medicine, and the College of Forensic Examiners. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason, active in his community as well as local and state politics, and adamantly supported Hispanic hospitals, organizations and leaders, and he was honored in 1996 with the *Hispanic Man of Year Award* for dedication, achievements and commitment to others; and

WHEREAS, a mentor, friend, advocate, and inspiration to all who knew him, he will be forever remembered for his love of family, friends and those less fortunate, keen sense of humor and gift of story-telling, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community and in all those whose lives he has touched.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by 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 Dr. Victor J. Martinez Family, his wife Aline, son Victor, daughter Katherine, brother Daniel, Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of July, 2013.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

