

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 Henry “Bill” Minahan**, one of the Tampa area’s most beloved citizens and a well-known high school coach, who passed away on Monday, December 30, 2013 at age 84; and

WHEREAS, born on May 2, 1929 in Sparrows Point, Maryland, Bill Minahan was raised Johnstown, Pennsylvania and graduated from Garfield High School where he excelled in many sports. His passion, experience and great knowledge of football began while playing for the United States Marine Corps Football Team during the Korean War, where he was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1952 when he was recruited by the University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida, as quarterback for the Spartan football team, leading them to a 31-11 record; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Minahan’s 38-year coaching career earned him the nickname “Wild Bill” and it began in 1956 as football coach for Henry B. Plant High School and Thomas Jefferson High School before accepting his final position with Jesuit High School in 1966 as Football Coach and Athletic Director, where he led the Jesuit Tigers to the Division 3A State Football Championship in 1968, the first time the State Title was won by a Hillsborough County high school, and he became the first head football coach in the county to reach the 100th victory mark; and

WHEREAS, Coach Minahan expected excellence and received respect, and he was representative of the school’s motto ***Men For Others***, and he brought more than a 132-78-2 win/loss/tie record - he inspired young football players and students and encouraged them to be achievers, and many went on to stellar college football careers, and became leaders in business, industry, science, education, sports, and the community; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Minahan received a kidney transplant in 1986, he, along with his wife Martha, became the voice for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in the Tampa Bay area and across the United States, and he devoted his time, energy and passion, much like he did during his coaching career, to bring awareness and raise funds to assist needy organ recipients through his positive actions and enthusiastic speeches; and

WHEREAS, among his many honors and recognitions, Mr. Minahan has been named to several Halls of Fame including the University of Tampa, Jesuit High School, Florida Athletic Coaches Association, and Sports Club of Tampa Bay, the ***Bill & Martha Minahan Lifetime Achievement Award*** has been named in his honor by the National Organization for Transplant Enlightenment, he has been profiled in LifeLink Foundation’s Faces of Transplantation Calendar, featured in Sports Illustrated, and has won four Gold Medals in badminton at the Transplant Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Minahan was especially known as an inspiration, someone who wished and strived for others to succeed, and a man who cherished his family and friends, 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 through his coaching, mentoring and advocacy; 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 Henry Minahan Family, his wife Martha, sons Carl and William, Jr., daughter Rosann, 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 community.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2014.



Mayor

