

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Engineer Officer Candidate School** (OCS) was established in July of 1941 to fill the pressing demand for qualified officers to command and staff activated engineering units, and many of the new officers were already in place and highly qualified personnel serving on active duty, in the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer Officer Candidate School commissioned more than 35,000 officers in support of three periods of the United States armed conflicts - the initial activation in 1941 during World War II, the Korean War during 1951-1954, and in support of the conflict in Vietnam with activation beginning in 1965; and

WHEREAS, the **508th Officer Candidate School United States Army Graduating Class of 1968** holds the distinction of being the first in OCS history that consisted of all sixty members of the class college graduates, which created a unique bond among the classmates, and the day of graduation was auspiciously held on Flag Day, June 14, 1968; and

WHEREAS, the graduates, known as the **508th Army Engineer Officer Candidate Regiment**, biennially host a reunion at different locations around the nation to celebrate their camaraderie as Vietnam Veterans, and honor those who have served in the name of freedom; and

WHEREAS, this year, the 508th Army Engineer Officer Candidate Regiment will hold its **46th Reunion** in Tampa, Florida on June 13-15, 2014, which will coincide with Flag Day, and the 239th Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, during the three-day reunion event, a reception will be held in honor of the graduates and their guests, a **Flag Day and Salute to the Military Ceremony** will be held at Knights Point on Harbour Island on June 14, 2014, and a brunch will culminate the reunion celebration and will include honoring Olympian Tim Montgomery with the **508th DRIVE-ON Award for Courage**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2014 as

“508TH ARMY ENGINEER OFFICER CANDIDATE REGIMENT DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the 508th Army Engineer Officer Candidate Regiment for their dedication, service and sacrifice to our nation in defense of freedom and on behalf of us all.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of June, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor