

Proclamation



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. **Steve Otto**, columnist with *The Tampa Tribune* and author is one such person; and

WHEREAS, born in Tampa, Florida, Steve Otto grew up the son of a United States Air Force military man allowing the family to travel around the globe, and he attended high school in Munich, Germany before returning to Tampa where he graduated from Henry B. Plant High School, and thereafter attended the University of South Florida before following in his father's footsteps by joining the United States Air Force, serving in Germany, England, and Africa, and it was during his service that he found a passion for newspapers; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge from military service, Steve Otto returned to his beloved Tampa, which he would soon nickname *The Big Guava*, and in 1969 he joined *The Tampa Tribune*, he affectionately refers to as *Mother Trib*, and its afternoon paper *The Tampa Times*, starting his newspaper career in the Circulation Department, and soon after, beginning with manual typewriters and wire service machines, worked as a sports writer covering tennis around the United States and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a political writer, editor, and ultimately as columnist; and

WHEREAS, well-known for his integrity, commitment, and humor, Steve Otto has endeared himself to the reading audience as he writes about the Tampa community, politics, causes, people, and *Ottograms* with a special style, and through his words he has captured the Tampa Bay's unique essence, noting its achievements and the wealth of goodness it holds in its citizens and organizations, and he has created special nicknames that have been become part of the Tampa language over the years including *Boliche Boulevard*, *Guavaween*, *Mama Guava*, and *The Exploding Chicken*, a 36-foot tall downtown metal sculpture that was once located in downtown Tampa; and

WHEREAS, wanting to share the beauty and uniqueness of Tampa with others, Steve Otto authored two books, *Treasures on Tampa Bay* (1996) and *The Spirit of the Bay* (2007), which was placed in the City of Tampa Time Capsule to be opened in the year 2037; and

WHEREAS, Steve Otto's love for the Tampa Bay area is well-expressed in his written words, and it is evident in his support and participation in the community including his founding of the popular Steve Otto Chili Cook-Off celebrating its 25th year, coach for the Lighthouse of the Blind's Beepball Classic, and among the many organizations he advocates for includes the Judeo-Christian Clinic and Metropolitan Ministries. He was the first recipient of *The Steve Otto, Voice of Tampa Bay Award*, named in his honor, and presented annually at the WEDU Be More Awards Luncheon.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, in **Honor of his Retirement** after over **45 years** with The Tampa Tribune, do hereby proclaim July 11, 2014 as

"STEVE OTTO DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for all of his contributions to the Tampa Bay community over the past forty-five years, and wishing him continued success and happiness in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 11th day of July, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor