

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, established in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the service organizations of the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board united to become the United Service Organizations (USO); and

**WHEREAS**, a private organization congressionally chartered and powered by volunteers, the mission of the USO is to strengthen America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the USO has provided support to the service men and women around the world as they defend our nation and sacrifice in the name of freedom, and its trademark *USO Tours* bring America to those serving far from their homes with entertainment including well-known celebrities and messages of encouragement and support from the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, *always by their side*, the USO has 160 centers worldwide that operate at or near military installations including in combat zones, and in airports throughout the United States that offer around-the-clock hospitality for traveling service members and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, locally, the USO operates a center at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, the first to be located at a Veteran's Hospital in the United States, and the USO Welcome Center at Tampa International Airport (TPA), and it has greeted more than 50,000 traveling troops and their families since being established in 2012, providing comfort and assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the *United Service Organizations' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, the local USO staff and volunteers will celebrate on Thursday, February 4, 2016 with a birthday cake at the Tampa International Airport location and MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, the United States Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater and United States Coast Guard Sector in St. Petersburg, and Tampa International Airport features a special opportunity for passengers to take photographs thanking the troops for their service.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 4, 2016 as

## ***"UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to recognize the dedication of the USO and the value it adds to the United States Armed Forces and those military personnel serving our country.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor