

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, West Tampa, Florida was established in 1892 when Hugh C. Macfarlane purchased 200 acres of land just west of the Hillsborough River for development, and within just a few short years, thousands of people moved into the area, and on May 18, 1895 West Tampa was incorporated. By 1905 it became Florida's fifth largest city, and in 1925 the City of West Tampa was annexed by the City of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, the **West Tampa Chamber of Commerce** was established in 1929 and its mission is to provide leadership and business opportunities that foster growth and quality of life while preserving the historical values of the West Tampa Community; and

WHEREAS, the **West Tampa Optimist Club** was founded in 1948 and is committed to "Bringing out the Best in Kids" in the community through its support of civic service clubs such as the West Tampa Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, youth sports organizations, and scholarship programs, and its efforts over the years have resulted in many awards and recognitions from Optimist International's national and regional divisions; and

WHEREAS, annually, the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the West Tampa Optimist Club bestow the ***George Guida Memorial Outstanding Citizen of West Tampa Award*** to an individual for their continuous service to the West Tampa Community and for meeting the criteria of having held an executive office in a civic club or community project, and served in community activities, fundraising or active leadership, and on Thursday, February 11, 2016 during the Annual Recognition Banquet at Higgins Hall, **Richard S. Caldevilla, Sr.** will be honored for his many years of dedication and contributions to West Tampa; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native, Mr. Caldevilla worked as a teenager cutting lawns and in his uncle's business prior to graduating from Hillsborough High School and Erwin Technical Institute. Thereafter, he was employed by Castellano Air Conditioning and as its Service Manager and Vice President, he gained the skills and experience needed to realize his life-long dream of owning a successful service company and in 1989, Caldeco Mechanical Services, Inc. was established. As one of the largest air conditioning and heating companies in the Tampa Bay area and the leading Carrier Corporation dealer on the West Coast of Florida, Caldeco Mechanical Services has received several honors including the Carrier Corporation's ***Distinguished Dealer Award*** in 1999 and its ***President's Award*** in 2007, 2009 and 2014. Mr. Caldevilla is dedicated to West Tampa and has restored two buildings and constructed a company distribution center in the community, and he has been an active and involved member of Tampa organizations including serving in leadership roles with the Centro Asturiano, West Tampa Chamber of Commerce and St. Lawrence Housing, and he contributes to various charities through sponsorships.

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 11, 2016 as

"WEST TAMPA DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in congratulating Richard S. Caldevilla, Sr. on this well-deserved recognition, and thanking the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce and West Tampa Optimist Club for its commitment and leadership that is dedicated to the residents and business community of West Tampa.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day of February, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor