

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, **Shriners International** is a world-wide fraternal organization, with the first Temple organized in the United States in 1872, and the Imperial Council, the governing body of the Shriners, officially established on June 6, 1876, with its headquarters located in Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged in ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need, and are bound together by shared values and a desire to have fun, do good, and build relationships that can last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, locally, Egypt Temple was established in Tampa, Florida in June of 1918, and currently has nearly 40 area Shriner Clubs and Units dedicated to benevolence and helping children and families; and

WHEREAS, well-known for its philanthropic efforts, Shriners International is especially noted for its **Shriners Hospitals for Children**[®] that first opened in 1922, and today has a network of twenty facilities throughout the United States, and one in Canada and one in Mexico, that provide expert medical care to children, including those with orthopedic needs, pediatric burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate conditions, with no financial obligation to the patients or their families; and

WHEREAS, Shriners Hospitals for Children are pioneers in expert techniques and treatments, and its mission is to provide the highest quality care to children without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability to pay, and its vision is to become the best at transforming children's lives by providing exceptional healthcare through innovative research, in a patient and family centered environment; and

WHEREAS, admission based solely on medical need without regard to financial ability, Shriners Hospitals for Children[®] – Tampa, located adjacent to the University of South Florida campus, has treated thousands of children, and has continued to grow and expand in response to the needs of children in our community, providing high quality care; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa is pleased to welcome attendees to the **Shriners International 142nd Imperial Session** held in our community on July 3-7, 2016, featuring the national convention theme **Welcome Home in 2016**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Monday, June 6, 2016 as

“SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAY”

in the city of Tampa and urge all citizens to recognize the many charitable services provided by Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children[®] and in thanking the organization's members for their dedication and contributions locally, nationally and globally for well over a century.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 6th day of May, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor