

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and for over 35 years, together with corporate partners, has honored those men and women who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions and that have helped to enrich the lives of other Hispanics in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will again celebrate its Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2016 Hispanic Man of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for his commitment to others, and who has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through his civic and community service; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Havana, Cuba and coming to the United States in 1959, this year's honoree is retired United States Special Forces **Colonel Orlando P. Rodriguez**, a graduate of Edison University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree and Appalachian State University receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science, and he graduated from the United States and Uruguay Command and General Staff College. Colonel Rodriguez was a brave member of Brigade 2506 during the historic Bay of Pigs Invasion when he joined with other Cuban exiles in 1961 in an attempt to free the Cuban people from communist totalitarianism, and the failed effort resulted in his imprisonment by the Cuban government; and

**WHEREAS**, upon his release from prison and return to America, Colonel Rodriguez, dedicated to democracy and freedom, joined the United States Army becoming an accomplished Green Beret in the United States Special Forces, earning many medals and accolades for his exceptional service including the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, four Distinguished Air Medals, two Department of Defense Medals, Pentagon Medal, Combat Medals, Foreign Government Medals of Valor, and for his notable service, he received Official Recognition from the President of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, well-known for his leadership and devotion to family, community and country, Colonel Rodriguez is an advocate for liberty, human rights and civic involvement, and he founded and serves as President of Centro Histórico Cultural Cubano de Tampa and Club Cívico Militar Cuba Libertad, and is an active member of Casa Cuba, la Unión Martí Maceo, Club Cívico Cubano, and has served on the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council and the Tampa Police Department's Chief Advisory Committee. His leadership, accomplishments and genuine desire to make a difference, and his ability to serve as an inspirational role model and mentor to others certainly justifies naming him the **2016 Hispanic Man of the Year**.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 8, 2016 as

**COLONEL ORLANDO P. RODRIGUEZ,  
HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR DAY**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending and thanking him for his outstanding service to our community and our country.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor