

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America** (B.P.O.E.), also known as the Elks, was founded in New York, New York on February 16, 1868; and

WHEREAS, the B.P.O.E. organization was established to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of *Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love* and *Fidelity*, to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members, to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism, and to cultivate good; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its *150 Anniversary*, the B.P.O.E. organization is a non-political, non-sectarian American fraternity, and it is dedicated to supporting benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded projects, spending in excess of \$80,000 annually on programs benefitting children, scholarships, scouting, athletic teams, veterans' works, physical and occupational therapy, an annual national *Hoop Shoot* free-throw contest involving more than 3 million children, and more; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #708** has been making a difference in the Tampa Bay area since it was established by Abe Maas on January 22, 1902, and its efforts and generosity include programs for area children through *Drug Awareness and Youth Activities* and *Club Chivalry* at Robinson High School, the support of veteran services through the *Stand Down for Vets* program and support for Tampa's Athena House for homeless female veterans, and they help feed and provide necessities for the homeless through its *Open Arms Ministry*; and

WHEREAS, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #708 will recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Order on February 24, 2018 at its Lodge on Gandy Boulevard, and the special celebration will provide an opportunity for its members and guests to reflect on all that has been accomplished both locally and nationally over the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby designate February 16, 2018 as

“BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAY

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to congratulate the B.P.O.E. organization on its 150th Anniversary and thank the Tampa Elks Lodge #708 for all it has contributed to the community for well over a century.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of January, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor