

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, entrepreneur Henry Bradley Plant played a significant role in Tampa's history through the establishment of our area's first railroad and shipping lines as well as the building of the Tampa Bay Hotel in 1891, a 500-room \$2.5 million Victorian masterpiece which became a popular destination for those traveling to the area on Henry B. Plant trains; and

WHEREAS, visited by numerous heads of state, celebrities, and persons of distinction, the Tampa Bay Hotel became known for its luxurious settings including its splendid Moorish architecture, opulent furnishings, spectacular tropical gardens, and outstanding recreational amenities located in 21 separate buildings spanning 150 acres. It also had the distinction of serving as the headquarters for Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders in 1898 during the Spanish American War; and

WHEREAS, purchased by the City of Tampa in 1904, the Tampa Bay Hotel became home to the University of Tampa in 1933, and through the years its 13 minarets, domes and cupolas have become a symbol of our great city and its unique history, and in 1972, it was designated a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the historical integrity of the former hotel would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of The Chiselers, Inc., a group of twenty-seven friends who met in 1959 with a mission of restoring and preserving the landmark, and they began to chisel old mortar from imported tiles salvaged from the original fireplaces; and

WHEREAS, The Chiselers today includes approximately 325 members who, through their extraordinary leadership and community spirit, volunteer about 15,000 hours annually, have raised nearly \$8 million for the restoration and preservation of this historic hotel, today known as the Henry B. Plant Hall at the prestigious University of Tampa, and the organization provides financial assistance to a deserving student through an endowed scholarship; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 21, 2018 as

"THE CHISELERS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in paying tribute to this organization and its members, both past and present, for their extraordinary efforts and commitment in preserving this vital symbol of Tampa's rich history and culture for future generations.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 20th day of December, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

