

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa, Florida takes great pride in recognizing the rich history of our community including individuals who made significant contributions to our city, state and nation, and Clarissa “Clara” Harlowe Barton (1821–1912), a trailblazer, humanitarian, activist, educator, nurse, and author is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, born on Christmas Day 1821 in Massachusetts, Ms. Barton was inspired at an early age to be patriotic, and her interest in nursing was sparked when she cared for her injured brother, and with her parent’s encouragement, she became a school teacher, earning her first teaching certificate at seventeen years of age, and she impacted education with several initiatives including leading a campaign to allow the children of workers to attend a free school and advocating for equal pay for teachers, and following her career as an educator, she worked as a clerk in the United States Patent Office in Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, when the American Civil War (1861-1865) began and the victims were transported to Washington, D.C., Ms. Barton went to the railroad station to meet them, providing care, comfort, food, clothing, supplies and other necessities to the wounded, and she collected medical supplies for the soldiers using her own living quarters as a storage and distribution center, and thereafter she volunteered to work on the front lines where she was known as the *American Nightingale* and *Angel of the Battlefield*; and

**WHEREAS**, post war, Ms. Barton ran the Office of Missing Soldiers, traveled the nation lecturing about her war experiences, became an activist for civil rights and the women’s suffrage movement, founded and served as the first president of the **American Red Cross**, and she authored *The Red Cross-In Peace and War* (1898), *Story of the Red Cross-Glimpses of Field Work* (1904), and *The Story of My Childhood* (1907); and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Barton established an American Red Cross headquarters in Tampa on Plant Avenue in 1898, and that same year, during the Spanish-American War, she educated nurses with intensive emergency medical training, and she brought them and supplies to Cuba, the first time the American Red Cross had assisted the United States military, bringing relief to soldiers and Cuban civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, to honor Clara Barton for her many contributions to the nation and to the Tampa community, the *Tampa Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution* will unveil the **Clara Barton Historical Marker** on Saturday, December 15, 2018, placed at 217 Bayshore Boulevard in Tampa, Florida.

**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, December 15, 2018 as

## **CLARA BARTON DAY**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents and visitors to join me in recognizing the vast accomplishments Clara Barton made throughout her life, and for the impact she had in elevating education and nursing, and in honoring her for establishing the American Red Cross 137 years ago.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor