

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, many thousands of veterans of the United States of America's armed forces have served this nation in times of peace and war, and in doing so have thereby assured the safety and prosperity of all her people, and as we celebrate our freedom, we should also remember this as a gift of life given to each of us by the men and women who bravely served their country, and by those who gave their life in battle; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine has played a critical role in every major American military conflict since the American Revolution (1775-1783), transporting large amounts of war material, supplies, equipment and troops, and during World War II, they were vital to the war effort, contributing to the Allied victory; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine suffered great casualties during World War II with more than 8,650 of the 215,000 Mariners killed and 3.1 tons of merchant ships lost, and the sacrifices that were made ensured our liberty and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1984, the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) is a non-profit Veterans national organization that includes a Florida charter, and its mission is in educating people about the vital role in which the United States Merchant Marine has played in the history of our nation, and seeks recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by the men and women who have served, and continue to serve in times of peace and war; and

WHEREAS, the AMMV is hosting its *33rd Annual American Merchant Marine Veterans' National Convention and Reunion* on March 21-24, 2019 at The Westshore Grand Hotel in Tampa, Florida, and the event features speakers, a dinner cruise, a special tour of the SS American Victory Ship, and keynote speaker Rita Crosby, Emmy Award Winner, Author, Television Host, News Reporter, and Veterans Advocate..

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby recognize and commend all American Veterans, especially those from our community, and do hereby proclaim Friday, March 22, 2019 as

“AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS' DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in welcoming the members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans and to thank them for their service to the United States of America, and to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country in the name of freedom.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 5th day of February, 2019.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

