

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, The City of Tampa is proud to recognize those organizations who have made a mark in our city by their economic investment and involvement in the community, and **The Florida Aquarium** celebrating its *25th Anniversary*, is one such entity; and

WHEREAS, first known as the Clearwater Marine Science Center, The Florida Aquarium was incorporated in 1986 with the vision of building a first-class public aquarium and nationally recognized educational facility, and with the Garrison Seaport Center as the site and Tampa Mayor Sandra Freedman and Tampa City Council's support, the construction began in 1992; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 1995, The Florida Aquarium opened its doors to the public, and during its first year, it served approximately one million residents and visitors to the Tampa Bay region, and over the years, it has become a major destination for travelers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, The Florida Aquarium's mission is to entertain, educate and inspire stewardship of the natural environment with a vision to *Protect and Restore our Blue Planet*, and it focuses on the restoration of coral reefs, rehabilitation of sea turtles and addressing shark population concerns, whose home is in Tampa Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys, and Cuba and featured in a 100,000 gallon Heart of the Sea exhibit; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, The Florida Aquarium has educated and inspired millions of visitors, advocated for conservation actions, and created exciting visitor experiences such as the No Bone Zone, a touch-pool exhibit, Penguins: Back Stage Pass, the Sea Hunt habitat, the Wild Dolphin Cruise, the Mosaic Center, The Splash Pad, a 4-D theater, and Moon Bay; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Aquarium is celebrating twenty-five years of contributions to the Tampa Bay area, and the City of Tampa pleased to congratulate those individuals instrumental in its vision, growth and success, and we appreciate its impact in the community, and to the animals, waterways and environment it protects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2020 as

"THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating them on this special 25th Anniversary milestone occasion, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 31st day of March 2020.



Jane Castor

Mayor