

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the month of September is celebrated as National Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the men and women who have played an important role in the development of the United States of America, and have bravely served in the United States Armed Forces in the name of democracy and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the son of immigrants, the late **Lieutenant Baldomero “Baldy” Lopez** was born in Ybor City in Tampa, Florida on August 23, 1925, growing up playing sports and delivering newspapers, and he attended Hillsborough High School where he was a commander with the Reserve Officer Training Corps, graduating third in his class in 1943, and thereafter received officer training at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, and

WHEREAS, from an early age, Lt. Lopez loved his country and volunteered to serve in the United States Marines where he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, and he proudly wore its uniform and served heroically, first leading a mortar platoon in China, later assigned to Camp Pendleton, and then promoted to 1st Lieutenant and assigned overseas during the Korean War from 1950-1953, serving as a Platoon Leader to Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Lopez landed at Red Beach during the Marine Inchon Landing on September 15, 1950, the largest amphibian invasion since D-Day, and he scaled a 40-foot seawall with a ladder to lead his men into combat, exposing himself to enemy fire, and as he prepared to throw a hand grenade by pulling the firing pin, he was hit by bullets, one in his shoulder, making it impossible to throw the weapon, so in order to save his troops, he sacrificed himself by bringing it under him, and at age 25, Lt. Lopez was mortally wounded by the blast; and

WHEREAS, he gallantly gave his life for his country seven decades ago, and for his heroic actions he received a *Purple Heart*, was posthumously presented the *Congressional Medal of Honor* by President Harry S. Truman in 1953, and the community has recognized his bravery and sacrifices including memorial tributes located in downtown Tampa, the Ed Radice Sports Complex and at the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum that commemorate his gallantry, the *Lopez Elementary School* in Seffner, the *Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home*, the USNS *1st Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez* cargo vessel, and the Korean War Veteran’s Association’s local *Lt. Baldomero Lopez Medal of Honor Chapter 175*, and the Quantico Basic School’s *Lt. Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award* are all named in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 15, 2020 as

“LIEUTENANT BALDOMERO LOPEZ MEMORIAL DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join together on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at Tampa City Hall to honor the life and legacy of Lt. Baldomero Lopez, and to recognize his bravery and sacrifices he made on behalf of us all.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15th day of September 2020.





Mayor