

In Memoriam



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and nation, and one of these individuals was **Charles Angel Otero**, a beloved Public Servant, Tampa Police Chief and Trailblazer who passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native, Chief Otero was born on October 21, 1925 to the late Berta Cachurro and Miguel Otero, and in his youth he worked sweeping cigar factory floors and selling fruit, and he attended local schools where he excelled, graduating near the top of his class from Thomas Jefferson High School and the University of Tampa where he studied social studies, and he later furthered his education with a scholarship to North Western University to study Police Administration; and

WHEREAS, Chief Otero served his county by enlisting in the United States Navy, joining at age seventeen, where he served as a quartermaster in both the Pacific and North Atlantic, and upon his honorable discharge, he returned home to his beloved Tampa; and

WHEREAS, joining the Tampa Police Department in 1947 as a patrolman, Chief Otero's dedication to excellence and perseverance led to multiple promotions and recognitions including overseeing the personnel and training divisions where his revision of the department's curricula and standards were adopted by the Florida Police Standard Board, he developed the first Police Academy in Tampa which partnered with the University of Tampa and St. Petersburg Junior College to allow officers to pursue higher education, and in 1974, he was elevated to Chief of Police, the department's first Hispanic to serve as Chief and where he led the department with distinction, and he opened doors for others by hiring the first two female patrol officers, created the School Resource Officer program, and initiated free psychiatric counseling for police officers; and

WHEREAS, Chief Otero was very proud of his city and to serve in law enforcement, and he was known for mentoring and instilling the value of public service in others, and throughout his over three decades of dedication to the Tampa Police Department and public safety, Chief Otero was highly respected by the department, his peers, and the community, and upon retirement in 1979, he continued to serve the community by working with the Hillsborough County School District teaching criminal justice and serving as Chief of Security; and

WHEREAS, well known for his strong ethics, tenacity, sense of humor, friendliness, and for his caring, kind and likeable nature, Chief Otero will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, his charm and strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Charles Angel Otero Family, his wife Margaret, sons Charles, Jr. and Ken, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters Hilda and Alice, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our community and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of April, 2021.

Jane Castor

Mayor