

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the first official Winter Paralympic Games were held in Ornskoldsvik, Sweden, in 1976, bringing together Olympic athletes from sixteen participating nations with the physical disabilities of amputation and visual impairment, competing in Alpine and Nordic skiing events; and

**WHEREAS**, *sledge hockey* was invented in the early 1960's in Stockholm, Sweden, and is a fast and physical game where players sit four inches above the ice on a double-bladed sled with two hockey sticks with picks on the ends that help the athletes grip the ice, and in the United States, the sport became known as *sled hockey* when it formed its first team in 1990. Since its introduction at the Winter Paralympics Games in 1994, the U.S. Paralympics Team has brought home three Gold Medals, the most of any participating country, and the first to win back-to-back Golds; and

**WHEREAS**, **Declan Farmer**, a 16 year-old Berkeley Preparatory School student from Tampa, Florida, is a bilateral amputee who began sled hockey at the age of nine, and in 2007, joined the Lightning Sled Hockey Team where he built his skills and determination for the sport that has carried him through many nationally recognized competitions that included skating with the USA Patriots Squad during its 2011-2012 season, and he has been a two-year member of the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team where he has ranked second on the team in points (19) and goals (8), and tied for first in assists (11) during the 2012-2013 season; and

**WHEREAS**, Declan's dedication, skills and athletic abilities are exceptional, and he was one of the youngest players to be selected as a member of the **U.S. Paralympics Team**, proving to be a valuable asset with his participation in international events including assisting in two goals at the 2012 World Sledge Hockey Challenge in Calgary, Alberta where the United States won First-Place, and the 2013 International Paralympic committee Ice Ledge World Championship in Goyang City, South Korea, with Declan tying for first on the team with eight goals during the five-day tournament, and he scored two goals and assisted the team in winning Silver in Rockland, Ontario at the February 2013 during the three-game series against Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Berkeley Prep Auditorium, Declan was sent off with a standing ovation by the Tampa Bay community to join the U.S. Paralympics Team to compete at the March 7-16, 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia, and he played with such courage, commitment, and incredible athleticism during the competition, and in the final match against Russia his contributions led to the Team receiving a standing ovation from the audience during the Medal Ceremony held in the Shayba Arena when the U.S. Paralympics Team was award the Gold Medal in Sled Hockey, and it remains the defending World Champion.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 2, 2014 as

## **“PARALYMPIAN DECLAN FARMER DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Declan Farmer, and the entire U.S. Paralympics Team for bringing home the Gold Medal, and expressing pride for all the athletes that represented the United States at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2014.



*City of*  
**Tampa**  
Florida

*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor