

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom Operation and Operation New Dawn (formerly known as Operation Iraqi Freedom) the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida has had a marked increase in the number of wounded and injured active duty members referred to the facility for treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) had observed that families traveled from across the nation to be with their loved ones during this critical time, providing an important role in their recovery, and with the average patient stay of 45 days, many families were in need of support and assistance, so in May 2004, **Operation Helping Hand** was established; and

WHEREAS, while the soldiers recover from injuries, wounds, and illness, Operation Helping Hand offers assistance to family members during their stay in Tampa, allowing them to focus on their loved one's healing and includes help with lodging, rental cars, gas discount coupons, phone cards, tickets to area amusement sites and movie theaters, gift certificates to restaurants and grocery stores, and in some cases helping with mortgage and bills back home; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Operation Helping Hand sponsors military medal and retirement ceremony receptions, and hosts a monthly dinner to honor the wounded and injured active duty and retired patients by recognizing their service and sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, Operation Helping Hand will celebrate its **10th Anniversary** during its Monthly Dinner event on May 15, 2014 held at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, and will take the opportunity to reflect on the past decade of providing assistance for over 750 active duty military patients and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 15, 2014 as

“OPERATION HELPING HAND DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in congratulating Operation Helping Hand on this 10th Anniversary milestone, and thanking the volunteers and supporters for their dedication to those that have sacrificed for our country's freedom and their families.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of April, 2014.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor