

# In Memoriam



*Bob Buckhorn, 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 its citizens. One of these individuals was **Alfred S. Austin**, beloved Real Estate Developer, Civic Leader, and Philanthropist who passed away on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at age 85; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Austin was born in Springfield, Massachusetts on January 18, 1929 to the late Robert S. and Rose Roberts Austin and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida as a young man, and attended the University of Tampa, where he later received an Honorary Doctorate and he went on to be a key supporter of the institution, leading the highly successful 1997-2005 Capital Campaign, bringing substantial growth to the University, and he was elected Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus; and

**WHEREAS**, after serving the country he loved in the United States Coast Guard, Mr. Austin worked in downtown Tampa as a car salesman prior to his embarking on his stellar career in real estate development, which began with the building of homes on Davis Islands and led to premier office buildings, hotels, and apartments throughout the Tampa Bay area and around the state of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, a true visionary with an understanding of the potential of Tampa International Airport and Interstate 275, Mr. Austin was considered the Pioneer of Tampa's Westshore Business District and is credited with developing the area into a major business district in Tampa and one of the largest commercial office markets in the state, and he was a founding member of the Westshore Alliance, a business-based organization representing almost 400 companies in the Westshore business district; and

**WHEREAS**, a true patriot and a man who believed in his country and his party, Mr. Austin was a leader who actively participated in the Florida Republican Party, serving as State Finance Chair, and a member of the Florida Electoral College, serving as a delegate or alternate to nearly every Republican Presidential Campaign in Florida for over four decades, and his dedication and hard work was instrumental in Tampa securing the 2012 Republican National Convention, bringing his beloved city visibility and future economic opportunities. For the benefit of his community, Mr. Austin served as Chairman of the MacDill Response Team, contributing substantially in keeping MacDill Air Force Base from federal base closures, and for his efforts he was appointed to the Governor's Advisory Board on Base Realignment and Closure in 2003 by Governor Jeb Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, devoted to the betterment and growth of his beloved Tampa, Mr. Austin worked tirelessly for the community including founding Tampa Preparatory School, and he served as Chairman and Board Member of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, Chairman of the Florida Council on Economic Education, Board of Governors member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors of the Tampa Bay Partnership and Moffitt Cancer Center, President of the Hillsborough County Easter Seals and American Heart Association, and Chapter Chair of the Hillsborough County Red Cross; and

**WHEREAS**, included among his extensive list of honors and recognitions over his lifetime, Mr. Austin received the *Outstanding Citizen of Year Award* from the Tampa Metro Civitan Club, *International Commerce Award* from the World Trade Center Tampa Bay, *Tip of the Hat Award* from Tampa Bay Magazine, the *Alec Courtelis Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Republican Party of Florida, and he was inducted into the *Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame* and *Tampa Bay Real Estate Hall of Fame*; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Austin was well-known for his leadership, tenacity, generosity, and as someone passionate about his country and his community, and he will be forever remembered for his deep love of family and friends, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements that he brought to the Tampa community and the state of Florida, and the impact he has made to the citizens of the city that he cared so much about.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, 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 Alfred S. Austin Family, his wife Beverly, his daughters Ann and Amy, Grandchildren and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his remarkable life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor