

# 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 **The Honorable James D. “Big Jim” Selvey**, one of Tampa’s most beloved citizens, well-known politician and realtor, who passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at age 77; and

**WHEREAS**, a Tampa, Florida native born on December 9, 1936, Mr. Selvey was the son of the late Colonel Eston and Mary Selvey and he attended school in Germany, and thereafter attended Auburn University in Alabama earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Industrial Management in 1960, and upon graduation he operated a plywood manufacturing facility in Central America before returning to his hometown of Tampa, where he began a farming career; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Selvey was an icon in the real estate industry, specializing in Commercial Real Estate and Land Use and Zoning, and he opened his own successful brokerage, Exit Realty Consultants in 2000, and thereafter joined Keller Williams Realty where he served as the Commercial Division Director. At the time of his death, he was with Home Xpress Realty assisting clients with their commercial real estate needs; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated to public service, Mr. Selvey served as a City Council Member in South Carolina, and in Tampa, Florida, was elected to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners in 1985, serving two terms, and was part of the first Commission elected after voters approved Hillsborough County’s Home Rule Charter form of government in September 1983, where he remained the sole Republican serving throughout his tenure. Respected by his peers and beloved by his constituents, Mr. Selvey was known as a “gentle giant” who worked hard for the growth and development of Hillsborough County, and his fellow board members elected him Chairman in 1989, and during his tenure he served as Chairman on several committees including the Transportation Commission, Tampa Sports Authority, Aviation Authority and Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, a leader in the Tampa community, Mr. Selvey was appointed as a Special Magistrate to the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board and Red Light Camera cases, and he served on the Hillsborough County Disaster Recovery Team. Mr. Selvey was active in many organizations including the Greater Tampa Association of Realtors where he served as its Centennial President in 2011, the Realtor Care Foundation, Catholic Charities, the Masons, Shriners, and Royal Order of Jesters; and

**WHEREAS**, involved in the Boy Scouts of America for over sixty-eight years, Mr. Selvey served with Troop 111 of Brandon since its inception and served in many leadership roles including Scout Master, Committee Chairman, District Chairman and Council Executive Committee, and he was recognized for his commitment to the organization with the Silver Beaver Award, District Award of Merit, St. George Medal, William D. Boyce Award, and the Daniel Carter Beard Award. While in Central America, he participated in the Boy Scouts of America in Panama’s Cayuco (canoe) Race, a thirty-eight mile, three-day competitive event from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean through the Panama Canal; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Selvey was especially known as a fair and compassionate gentleman, a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather who loved people, learning, and travel, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community, and in all those whose lives he has touched.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the 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 James D. Selvey family, his wife Cheryl, son James, daughter Jessica, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the impact of his life on our community.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor