

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 Helen Pappas Chavez**, a well-known and respected public servant, business leader and restaurateur, who passed away on Saturday, August 2, 2014, at age 89; and

WHEREAS, born to the late Nick and Mary Pappas, Mrs. Chavez was raised in Kansas City, Missouri where she studied art at the Kansas City Art Institute, and thereafter met her future husband George Chavez at a United Service Organization (USO) event, and in 1960 they would move their family to Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, inspired by her father's work in the restaurant business, Mrs. Chavez was well-known for her upscale catering business and fine dining establishments including the Tea Room in Old Hyde Park, Chavez at the Royal and Chavez Windows on the Park, and her success and business savvy served as a role model for others to emulate; and

WHEREAS, she loved Tampa and the people of the community and was well-recognized as a strong advocate for women's rights and fostering women in business and government, and she was elected to two-terms to Tampa City Council from 1979 to 1987, the first Republican woman to serve, and she championed for historic preservation including her campaign to save Tampa's brick streets, the redevelopment of the Hyde Park neighborhood, she helped keep Bayshore Boulevard clean by having trash receptacles located along the route, and encouraged the establishment of a family section at the Tampa Bay Buccaneer football games; and

WHEREAS, in service to the Tampa community she loved, she was actively involved in many organizations including the Tampa Bay Arts Center, the Guilders where her work there was instrumental in raising funds to build the Tampa Museum of Art, the Gasparilla Sidewalk Art Festival, Easter Seals Guild, Red Cross Angels, Athena Society, The Chiselers, Sword of Hope, and the Republican National Party where she served as a delegate to two conventions; and

WHEREAS, known as a true public servant, mentor, and inspiration to all who knew her, she will be forever remembered for her love of family, friends and life, high standards, wonderful sense of humor and adventuresome spirit, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, her legacy will continue to live on through the improvements she brought to our community and in all those whose lives she has touched.

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 Helen Pappas Chavez Family, her daughters Denise, Mary, and Michele, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, brothers Ted and Alex, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of her life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of August, 2014.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

