

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and for over 35 years, together with corporate partners, has honored those men and women who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions and that have helped to enrich the lives of other Hispanics in our community; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will again celebrate its Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2014 Hispanic Man of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for his commitment to others, and who has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through his civic and community service; and

WHEREAS, born in Puerto Rico, this year's honoree is **Evelio Otero**, a graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Journalism, a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from Troy State University, and a Master of Science Degree in National Strategic Policy from Air War College. Mr. Otero served for twenty-nine years in the United States Air Force, and as a Colonel with the United States Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, he honed his skills in leadership and international diplomacy as Chief of the Coalition Intelligence Division and thereafter serving as Chief of the International Engagement Division; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otero founded *Course of Action Foundation*, serving as its Chairman, and the organization's mission is to expand economic ties with Latin America through the Tampa Bay region, provide research assistance and policy recommendations in support of protecting the Tampa Bay and Florida West Coast economy, and he is the founder of *Otero International LLC*, dedicated to the pursuit of international initiatives for the development of the United States defense industry and the expansion of the nation's economy. He continues to demonstrate his commitment to the economic growth and quality of life in the Tampa community by championing for our nation's military veterans and working extensively with the Hispanic community, including promoting education among minorities; and

WHEREAS, well-known in the community for his dedication, Mr. Otero has received numerous honors including the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Award, Air Force Commendation Medal, Defense Meritorious Service and Superior Service Medals, Nomination for the Polish Government Gold Medal, and he was awarded the Presidential Gold Medal from Ana G. Mendez University; and

WHEREAS, his leadership, accomplishments, and genuine desire to make a difference, and his ability to serve as an inspirational role model and mentor to others certainly justifies naming him the **2014 Hispanic Man of the Year**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 4, 2014 as

EVELIO OTERO,
HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR DAY

in the City of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending and thanking him for his outstanding service to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 4th day of October, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor