

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 Richard Allen (Rick) Olewinski, a devoted public servant and beloved City of Tampa Police Detective, who passed away on Monday, November 3, 2014 at age 58; and

WHEREAS, born in Wisconsin on March 6, 1956, Rick Olewinski proudly served the country he loved in the United States Marine Corps for five years prior to his lifetime commitment to law enforcement and public service; and

WHEREAS, Rick began his stellar thirty year career with the Tampa Police Department in September 1979 with promotions to Corporal in 1985 and Detective in 1991, and served with honorable dedication in many capacities including Patrol, the Field Training and Evaluation Program as an Officer and as Supervisor, Tactical (Narcotics) Division in the Selective Enforcement Bureau, the Forfeiture Unit within the Legal Unit, the Criminal Investigations Bureau and as Executive Security Officer for the Office of the Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, and he worked for the National Hockey League as a Security Liaison for the Tampa Bay Lightning, and he excelled in each of his assignments, always committed, tenacious, and especially professional; and

WHEREAS, thought very highly of by law enforcement officers, command staff and officials, Rick was considered a man of great integrity who could be relied upon and trusted throughout his career, always on task, methodical and ready to assist others when needed, and he served the Tampa Police Department with honesty, courage, and a genuine concern for others; and

WHEREAS, Rick retired in July of 2009, but returned as a civilian the following month on the Trusted Protection Detail to continue his commitment as Executive Security Officer, and he thought far in excess of his job description and went above and beyond to insure the safety and well-being of others, including the Mayor, the Mayor's family, and City of Tampa staff members, and his special attention to detail was well-known and appreciated by all those who relied on his expertise and superb judgment; and

WHEREAS, Rick was especially known as a quiet, but caring man with keen sense of humor, a devoted and loving husband and father who was active in his children's activities that included scouting, dance, music, and he served as President of his son's soccer club. He enjoyed traveling, especially visiting micro-breweries around the nation, spending time with friends, and the restoration of his pristine 1974 Chevrolet Camaro Z28. Although we are grieved at the loss of this great man and outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on 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 Richard Olewinski Family, his wife Vicki, daughter Kelly, son Jason, mother Lorraine, brother Randy, sisters Karen and Jill, mother-in-law Carol, 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 7th day of November, 2014.



Mayor

