

Proclamation



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. John Wilson, WTVT-TV FOX 13 Anchor and community leader, is one such person; and

WHEREAS, born in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, John discovered his passion for broadcasting as a young man while working as a Disc Jockey and News Reporter for the local WLSR radio station, he attended Virginia Commonwealth University earning degrees in Journalism, English and Drama, and upon graduation, he served in the United States Army with the Armed Forces Radio in Panama and he earned the Army Commendation Medal for Excellence in Broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge from military service, John returned to Virginia to begin his stellar professional television career, serving as main news anchor and news director in Richmond and Portsmouth, and thereafter he, his wife Mary K., and three sons relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina where he anchored WBTV-TV station's prime time newscasts, and was later recruited by KSDK-TV in St. Louis, Missouri where his professionalism and dedication earned him consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Local Anchor; and

WHEREAS, John became well-known in the Tampa Bay area in 1981 when he joined WTSP-TV as the prime time newscast anchor for twelve years before becoming an integral part of the WTVT-TV FOX 13 team in 1993, and over the years he has been applauded for his special reports from around the globe including Guantanamo Bay, France, Moscow, Saudi Arabia, and the White House interview with the late President Ronald Regan, and for his poignant series from a Romanian orphanage, he received several Associated Press and Society of Professional Journalist awards. John has endeared himself to the community for his commitment, integrity, and straight-forward reporting, and his popular weekly editorial segments "*My View*" earned him an Emmy Award for Commentary; and

WHEREAS, devoted to the Tampa Bay community, John regularly volunteers his time and talents as an emcee, lecturer, speaker, and singer at charity events and community functions, and he has been honored by many organizations including the National Red Cross, The Boys and Girls Clubs, Suncoast Opera Guild, Junior League of St. Petersburg, St. Anthony's Hospital, and the National Conference on Community Justice; and

WHEREAS, as one of the most popular television and speaking personalities in the Tampa Bay area, and well respected by his peers in television, the media and viewing audience, the City of Tampa is honored to congratulate John Wilson on his retirement after an incredible 50-year career in broadcasting, and is grateful for the many contributions he has made to our community and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 26, 2014 as

"JOHN WILSON DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his many contributions to our community and in wishing him continued success and happiness in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 26th day of November, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor