

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 Warren C. Elly, one of the Tampa area's most beloved citizens and a well-known Broadcast Journalist, who passed away on Monday, April 6, 2015 at age 64; and

WHEREAS, born on January 30, 1951 in Brooklyn, New York and raised as an only child in Stamford, Connecticut, Mr. Elly's amateur ham radio hobby led to his passion for broadcasting which developed further as he worked in radio news while a student in junior high school, and he continued in that medium even after graduation from Wesley College in Dover, Delaware and American University in Washington, D.C. where he received his Master's Degree in Journalism; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, he worked for WTOP Radio as a writer and editor prior to his stellar career in television broadcasting beginning with WCSG-TV in Portland, Maine and thereafter with WYTV-TV in Youngstown, Ohio, and he served as News Director with WKNE in Keene, New Hampshire, and from the early years in his profession, he was admired as an ethical and fair reporter who set high standards for factual reporting; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elly became an important and visible member of the Tampa Bay community when he began his career with WTVT Channel 13, Fox 13 in 1982 where he became known as a journalist who found stories everywhere, and he was well-respected by his peers, law enforcement, members of the judicial court system, and the viewing audience for his almost three decades reporting on crime, corruption, and stories that affected the daily lives of the citizens in the Tampa region, and he was passionate about space exploration and covered more than 120 space shuttle launches during his career; and

WHEREAS, one of the longest serving reporters in the Tampa Bay area, Mr. Elly retired from Fox 13 in 2011 to spend more time with his beloved family, attend Tampa Bay Rays Baseball games, and continue his life-long ham radio hobby where his call sign was W1GUD and he was named Media and Relations Director by the New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest). He also founded *Warren Elly, A Media Company* to share his forty years of reporting and story-telling experience with others, to help them tell their stories through Media Consulting and Coaching and Video Production, he hosted a weekly call-in segment *Last Call* for WMNF 88.5 FM Radio, and he wrote for the Tampa Epoch newspaper. In 2014, Mr. Elly was diagnosed with Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma, a rare cancer, and he bravely shared with others his experience, treatments and thoughts through his blog, *The Way Forward*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elly was especially known for his intelligence, integrity and fairness and as a man who cherished his family and friends, 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 through his reporting, mentoring and advocacy; and

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 Warren C. Elly Family, his wife Lona, sons Walter, Jonathan and Christopher, 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 8th day of April, 2015



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor