

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established on September 28, 1898 in Cincinnati, Ohio by Arthur James Riggs and Benjamin Franklin Howard, the **Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW)** is one of the largest predominately Black fraternal organizations in the world with a global membership of over 450,000 in Lodges and Temples in the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, West Indies, Panama, and the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, the mission of IBPOEW is to make a positive difference in the lives of children, youth, seniors, veterans, and others less fortunate primarily through benevolent contributions, volunteer services, and broad-based collaborative community initiatives; and to assist the less fortunate in achieving their highest potential, complete their education, and in becoming positive society contributors through committed volunteerism, national leadership, and standards of excellence; and

WHEREAS, for more than a century, IBPOEW has contributed to mankind throughout the United States and worldwide through its mission, benevolence, service, and programs including Educational, Medical, Veterans Affairs, National Youth, Civil Liberties, Antlered Guard, and Hobson R. Reynolds National Shrine Departments; and

WHEREAS, the **Florida State Association of Temples of IBPOEW**, celebrating its **90th Anniversary**, was founded in January 1925, with its first meeting held in Tampa, Florida, and the organization currently has nine districts that include twenty-four Lodges, and the members are dedicated to the IBPOEW mission, have contributed to the economic growth of Florida, and make a positive impact in the communities of our state, including locally through the efforts of Bay City Lodge #268 and Bay City Temple #158; and

WHEREAS, it is auspicious that the Florida State Association of Temples of IBPOEW are returning to Tampa, Florida for the **90th Anniversary Celebration** on May 14-20, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, and the members and guests will reflect on all that has been accomplished over the past nine decades and celebrate the organization's success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 15, 2015 as

"FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TEMPLES DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Florida State Association of Temples on this anniversary milestone and acknowledging the members of this fraternal organization for their many contributions.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7th day of May, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor