

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 **The Honorable John F. Germany**, one of Tampa's most beloved citizens, well-respected Jurist and Community Leader, who passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at age 92; and

WHEREAS, born in Alabama on January 16, 1923, Judge Germany moved with his family to Plant City, Florida as an infant where he grew up picking strawberries and delivering newspapers to help his family financially and to save for his dream of attending college, accomplishing his goal when he graduated with honors from the University of Florida. Thereafter he served the country he cherished during World War II in the United States Army as Tank Commander, and he helped to liberate the concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria, and upon receiving his honorary discharge, he earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1950, and then joined the prestigious Fowler White Law Firm where he met future Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, and he later became Chief Legal Advisor for Governor Collins; and

WHEREAS, Judge Germany was a strong believer in education and during his time serving with Governor Collins, he greatly advocated for a university for the Tampa Bay community, and together with his long-time friend United States Congressman Sam Gibbons and with Governor Collins' support, the University of South Florida (USF) was established, and the three men are considered to be the *Founding Fathers of USF*, today an internationally known and widely respected institution; and

WHEREAS, Judge Germany was a member of the American Bar Association, Florida Bar, and the District of Columbia Bar Association, and in 1959, he was appointed a Circuit Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida where he served until 1966 when he retired to become a Founder in the successful Knight, Jones, Whitaker and Germany Law Firm, now known as Holland & Knight Law Firm with offices throughout the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, a generous man who mentored and encouraged others, Judge Germany served in leadership roles in many organizations such as Florida Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, Florida Board of Bar Examiners, National Conference of Bar Examiners where he implemented the Multistate Bar Examination, the University of Tampa's Board of Trustees, Bok Tower Gardens, Friends of the Library and the May K. Houck Foundation. An icon in the Tampa Bay region, he was recognized for his many contributions including passionately spearheading the efforts to build the **John F. Germany Library** in downtown Tampa named in his honor, he gained governmental and community support for the NCNB Plaza, renamed Rivergate Tower, and he received many awards and recognitions over his lifetime including the USF President's Fellow Medallion For Community Service Award, an Honorary Doctor of Jurisprudence from Stetson University, Outstanding Lawyer Award from the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and he was inducted into the Plant City High School Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Judge Germany will be well remembered as a visionary, a dignified and humble man who loved reading, and for his deep love and devotion for his family and friends, and because of his vast accomplishments and commitment to his beloved Tampa, it is the vibrant and successful city it is today. 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 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 Honorable John F. Germany Family, his daughters Sue Ellen, Lindsey and Jan, son John Jr., Grandchildren, Great-Grandchild, 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 city.

Dated this 28th day of August, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor