

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 exceptional individual was **Dr. William Nelson Spellacy, M.D.**, a well-respected and beloved Tampa, Florida Obstetrics and Gynecology Physician, Educator and Researcher who passed away on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at age 81; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spellacy was born on May 10, 1934 in St. Paul, Minnesota to the late Elmyra and Jack Spellacy, and graduated a member of the National Honor Society from White Bear High School, and he attended the University of Minnesota where he received his Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, and Medicinae Doctor, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Alpha Omega Alpha Society, and he completed his Internship at Minneapolis General Hospital; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Spellacy served as a faculty member in its OB/GYN Department, and thereafter as a Professor at the University of Miami, Professor and Chairman at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, Professor and Department Head at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and as Professor and Chairman for nearly three decades in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Florida (USF) Morsani College of Medicine in Tampa; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spellacy was a pioneering leader during his tenure at USF Morsani College of Medicine and his many accomplishments include his legendary and monumental contributions to the development of modern OB/GYN care and subspecialties, particularly Maternal-Fetal Medicine, overseeing several divisions and programs, establishing medical clinics for underserved patients, and the Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology at USF was envisioned and established by him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spellacy was American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology certified in OB/GYN and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, he held Florida and Illinois State Medical Licenses, and during his incredible career, he authored over 500 articles in professional journals, contributed to 80 book chapters and ten books, served in many leadership capacities including the National Institute of Health, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Societies of Perinatal Obstetricians and Gynecologic Investigation, and he was a member of several prominent editorial boards. Dr. Spellacy received numerous well-deserved recognitions for medicine and teaching that include his election to the *National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine* one of the highest professional honors, he received the *Distinguished Research Professor, Platinum Performance* and *Dean's Awards* from USF, was named one of the *Best Doctors in America* by several leading publications, and he was a *Fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spellacy was a compassionate, dedicated medical professional, teacher, mentor and an inspiration to all who knew him, and he will be forever remembered as a man who championed for women, babies and families, committed to his chosen field and his patients, and especially for his deep love of his cherished family. 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, particularly those who were impacted by his skills and care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by 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 Dr. William Nelson Spellacy Family, his wife Lynn, his daughters Kathleen and Kimberly, son William, Jr., Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of October, 2015.



Mayor

