

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the late **Jack Roosevelt “Jackie Robinson** (1919-1972), was a well-known, respected and talented American Major League Baseball (MLB) player, and a trailblazer who broke the color barrier in MLB, and was a champion for removing social barriers; and

WHEREAS, born in Cairo, Georgia, Jackie Robinson was inspired to pursue sports by his older brothers, and while attending John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, he lettered in varsity football, basketball, track and baseball and he won the Pacific Coast Tennis Negro Tennis Tournament’s Junior Boys Singles Championship, broke the broad-jump record at Pasadena Junior College, and became the first athlete at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to win varsity letters in four sports, and prior to his professional baseball career, he served in United States Army where he was one of only a few black applicants accepted to its Officers Candidate School (OCS), commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon completion, and received an honorable discharged in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson’s outstanding baseball career began with the Kansas City Monarchs, a Negro League team, and became the first black athlete in the International Minor League when recruited by the Montreal Royals in 1946, earning the league’s *Most Valuable Player* title, and on April 15, 1947, he debuted as the first African American player in MLB with the Brooklyn Dodgers, ending almost sixty years of segregation in the professional sport; and

WHEREAS, during his ten-year career, his extraordinary skills in hitting, base steals, speed, double-plays and fielding earned him countless honors including the inaugural *Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year Award*, *Most Valuable Player Award*, he was instrumental in the Dodgers winning the *1955 World Series*, was elected to the *Baseball Hall of Fame* in 1962, becoming its first African American inductee, honored on three separate United States Postal Service stamps, named *Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of the 20th Century*, received the prestigious *NAACP’s Spingarn Medal*, the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* and the *Congressional Gold Medal*, numerous parks and centers are named in his honor, and in 1972, the Dodgers retired his uniform number, 42; and

WHEREAS, known for his exceptional talent, leadership and commitment to fairness and human rights, Jackie Robinson continued to make a difference in equality and progress after his retirement from professional baseball, and he was the first black analyst for ABC’s *Major League Baseball Game of the Week*, and named the first African American vice president of a major corporation, Chock Full O’Nuts; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball established the *Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life Program* twenty years ago to introduce youth in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico to Jackie Robinson’s values that include Courage, Teamwork, Determination, Persistence, Integrity, Citizenship, Justice, Commitment and Excellence, and the *Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers Celebration* held at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida on April 15, 2016, is hosted by MBL’s **Tampa Bay Rays** to recognize and honor the incredible life and legacy of Jackie Robinson.

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, April 15, 2016 as

“JACKIE ROBINSON DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in reflecting upon his many contributions to the citizens



Bob Buckhorn
Mayor