

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 **Captain Robert (Bob) Joseph Silah**, a well-respected retired United States Navy Officer, businessman and community leader who passed away on Monday, August 22, 2016 at age 80; and

WHEREAS, born on June 10, 1936 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to the late Joseph and the late Ester Silah, Captain Silah graduated from St. Mary Springs Academy in 1954 where he excelled in football and was named Homecoming Game Captain, and thereafter he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Management at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and later his Master's Degree in Personnel Management from the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Captain Silah began his service to his beloved country during high school when he joined the United States Naval Reserve, and he volunteered for active duty in 1963, commissioned as an Ensign and a Surface Warfare Officer, and his military career spanned twenty-seven years to include deployments around the world that included the Caribbean, Western Pacific, Mediterranean, two tours to Vietnam, and the Middle East, and he demonstrated commitment to duty in all his assignments including serving with the Chief of Naval Personnel and Chief of Naval Operations Offices in Washington, D.C., and he was the Deputy Inspector General and Chief Inspector with the United States Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, and for his service he was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Navy Achievement Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and many other accommodations; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement from military service, Captain Silah founded SKY Sportswear, specializing in clothing embroidery and screen printing, and he was active in the community with his leadership in organizations such as the Navy League, Kiwanis, and Carrollwood Area Business Association, and while President of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), he established and served as Chairman of *Operation Helping Hand* in 2004, with the mission of providing support to injured active military personnel and their families, and he enhanced the organization's contributions by establishing the sponsorship of military medal and retirement ceremony receptions and hosting monthly dinners to honor the wounded and injured military hospital patients; and

WHEREAS, among the many recognitions Captain Silah received for his efforts on behalf of others include being honored by President George W. Bush with the *President's Call to Service Award*, Governor's *Point of Light Award*, Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities *Community Service Award*, the Newman's Own National Competition's *First Place Award*, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's *Special Humanitarian Award* and its *Bob Cutler Volunteer Award*, the *Admiral Collins Leadership Award*, Tampa Bay Lightning *Community Hero Award*, and he was inducted into the *Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame*; and

WHEREAS, known as a caring, dedicated and ethical man, Captain Silah will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of his wife and family and his inspirational nature, 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, especially the military personnel and their families that benefitted from his generosity.

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 Robert Joseph Silah Family, his wife Kathryn, sons Michael and Jason, 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 28th day of August, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor