

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 **George A. Levy**, a well-respected businessman and community leader who passed away on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at age 83; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native, George Levy and twin brother J. Leonard were born in 1933 to the late Sol and Simmie Levy, and after graduation from Plant High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1957 from the University of Florida (UF) and thereafter served the country he loved in the United States Army and upon his honorable discharge, he worked as a sportswriter covering UF Gator Football and as a swimming coach for the Greater Tampa Swim Team; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Levy founded George A. Levy, Inc., a successful awards company in downtown Tampa, relocating to West Kennedy Boulevard four years later due to its rapid growth, and under his leadership, the business continued to expand, becoming one of the top ten award companies in the nation and it was greatly respected for its high standards and superior products, and the company was named Trophy Dealers and Manufacturers Association's *Trophy Dealer of the Year*, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's *Small Business of the Year* and it had the distinction of designing the 1996 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Division I Football Trophy, which was presented to his beloved Florida Gators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levy was passionate about sports and the growth of his community, and his efforts resulted in an imprint in Tampa's development including leading the campaign for the Community Investment Tax resulting in improvements for schools, libraries, infrastructure, police and fire equipment and funding for Raymond James Stadium, his service on the Florida West Coast Pro Football Task Force was vital in two NFL Super Bowls played in our city and in bringing the National Football League (NFL) Tampa Bay Buccaneers franchise to Tampa, and he is credited with the annual NCAA Outback Bowl (formally Hall of Fame Bowl) relocating to Tampa, he founded the Greater Tampa Swimming Association, and his service with the City of Tampa Board of Public Recreation, Tampa Sports Authority, Tampa Sports Hall of Fame, and New York Yankees Tampa Foundation elevated sports in our region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Levy loved politics and successfully managed several local political races, and his strong dedication to community with philanthropy and leadership included serving on the Board of the Boys & Girls Clubs, as a Chairman of Hillsborough Community College, Gold Shield Foundation, Alpha House, The Centre for Women, J. Clifford MacDonald Center, and he sponsored the George A. Levy Student Effort Awards for Alexander Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, among his many honors and recognitions, Mr. Levy was named Tampa Metro Civitan Club's *Outstanding Citizen of the Year*, the Tampa Bay Lightning named him a *Community Hero*, Tampa Sports Club's *Citizen of the Year Award*, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's *Service to Youth Award*, and the *George A. Levy Scholarship* at UF and the *Aparicio-Levy Technical Center* in Tampa are named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, known as a kind, results-oriented, forward thinking man, true to his word and to his friends, and an inspiration to all who knew him, he will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of family, his ethics and generous nature, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the many improvements he brought to our community and in all those whose lives he has touched.

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 George A. Levy Family, his wife Judith, his children Barbara, Carolyn, Laura and Daniel, 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 September, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor