

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 **Louise Saberton Lykes Ferguson**, a well-known and respected community leader, who passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at age 104; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native and a member of one of Tampa's founding families, Mrs. Ferguson was born on May 28, 1912 to the late Clara Estelle Long and the late Howell Tyson Lykes, Jr., and she enjoying playing tennis and riding horses while growing up and attending local schools including Miss White's English Classical School and Wilson Middle School, and she was a member of the inaugural 1927 freshman class of Henry B. Plant High School where she was Valedictorian of the 1930 graduating class; and thereafter she graduated from Pine Manor Junior College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, where she was also Valedictorian, and upon graduation traveled to Sorbonne, France to attend the University of Paris; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, she married the late Chester H. Ferguson, a prominent Tampa attorney and successful business leader, and she provided him strength and support throughout their loving marriage up until his death in 1983, and she loved the Tampa community with a determination to help others, especially through education and the arts, and was involved in many aspects of community leadership, volunteerism and service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ferguson served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Tampa (UT) and was a founding member of UT's The Chiselers, she served on the Tampa Arts Council, was a member of the Junior League of Tampa, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, the Tampa Yacht Club and Highlands (North Carolina) County Club, and as an avid and accomplished gardener, she was a member of the Founders Garden Club Circle and the Tampa Garden Club. She is credited with helping to lead the growth and success of the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts (Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center) since its inception and the Louise Lykes Ferguson Hall located there is named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, among her many accolades, Mrs. Ferguson received the Junior League of Tampa Bay's *Sustainer of the Year Award* and *Lifetime Commitment Award*, honored with the *Governor's Award for the Arts* for her service to the Tampa Arts Council, awarded the University of South Florida's *Dean's Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts* and its inaugural *Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Community Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award*; and

WHEREAS, known as an independent, strong woman and an inspiration to all who knew her, she will be forever remembered for her deep love of family, friends and community, high standards, generous nature and sense of humor, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, her legacy will continue to live on through the improvements she brought to our community and in all those whose lives she 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 Louise Saberton Lykes Ferguson Family, her daughter Stella, her son Howell, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of her life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of October, 2016.



Mayor

City of
Tampa
Florida