

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 **Theresa Altameze Manuel**, a well-known and respected Educator, Olympian and Trailblazer who passed away on Monday, November 21, 2016 at age 90; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida native, Ms. Manuel was born on January 7, 1926 in Port Tampa and grew up there and in the West Tampa neighborhood, and she attended local schools including Middleton High School where she excelled in basketball and developed her competitive spirit and “watch me” personality; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Tuskegee University in Alabama, Ms. Manuel was a member of the Basketball Team where she was known as “Trick Shot”, and of the Track and Field Team, and during her time at the university, she was instrumental in four conference champion wins while setting her own personal best record times, including the long-standing 50-yard indoor track hurdle record set in 1947; and

WHEREAS, a gifted athlete, Ms. Manuel was the first African American from Florida to represent the United States of America in the 1948 World Olympics in London, England where, as a member of the United States Olympic Team, she competed in the 80-Meter Hurdles, 440-Yard Team Relay and Javelin Throw, and she was determined and proud to represent the African American race and of the part she played on the global stage for her nation; and


WHEREAS, upon graduation from Tuskegee University and graduate work at New York University, Ms. Manuel returned to her beloved Tampa and alma mater Middleton High School where she taught Physical Education, and thereafter, Hillsborough High School where she coached the Basketball Division to winning records and titles, and she mentored her students throughout her 38-year teaching career, guiding and inspiring them; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Manuel received many honors over her lifetime including named *Hillsborough County Coach of the Year* in 1975, *Florida Coach of the Year* in 1976, a *Tampa Bay Treasures* by WTSP Channel 28, inducted into the Tuskegee Hall of Fame, the first African American woman inducted into the Tampa Sports Halls of Fame, and the *Theresa A. Manual* track at Middleton High School and the *Manuel-Griffin Relays* at Hillsborough High School were named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, known as an independent, strong woman and a role model to all who knew her, she will be forever remembered for her love of family, friends, teaching and athletics, high standards and giving nature, 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 nation and community, and in all those whose lives she has touched, especially her cherished students.

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 Theresa A. Manuel Family, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of her life on our city, nation and world.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7th day of December, 2016.



Mayor

