

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 **Charles “Charlie” Mead Banks, Sr.**, a well-respected Real Estate Developer, Community Leader and Mentor who passed away on Monday, January 2, 2017 at age 98; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Banks was born on March 2, 1918 in Greenville, Mississippi and raised in Tunica, Mississippi and in Helena, Arizona. He graduated from Mississippi State University, and thereafter served the country he loved as an Officer in the United States Navy during World War II, and while stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, he met and married his beloved wife, the late Marie “Mickey” Louise Ely; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge from the military, he relocated to New Orleans where he demonstrated his entrepreneurial spirit by purchasing washing machines and opening one of the first laundromats in the area, and he was named Regional Manager of the New Orleans and Southern Louisiana Veterans Administration by the Eisenhower Administration; and


WHEREAS, Mr. Banks was recruited by Mutual of New York Insurance to lead its Tampa, Florida office as General Manager prior to embarking on his stellar real estate development career that began in 1966 with the purchase of sixteen acres in downtown Tampa, growing to include Clearwater, Brandon and Orlando, with notable projects such as the Barnett Bank Plaza (now the Bank of America Plaza), downtown Tampa’s first multi-story condominium One Laurel Place, Brandon Hospital, and he contributed to the planning and development of Tampa’s Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, known for his genuine love of people and his community, Mr. Banks worked tirelessly mentoring others, making positive connections between people, and his belief in the political process led him to assist candidates seeking public service office. He served as Chairman of Hillsborough Area Rapid Transit (HART) and the Tampa Arts Council, was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, the Downtown Development Authority, and he not only was a member of the Downtown Tampa Rotary Club and served in many leadership roles including as President, but he lived the Rotary motto of *Service Above Self* throughout his lifetime, and emulated its basic principles of truth, fairness, goodwill, friendship and ensuring the benefit was for all people, and the organization dedicated the *2011-2012 Roster* to him and he was granted a “Seat of Honor” in recognition of his long standing service; and

WHEREAS, known as a true gentleman, extremely charming with a wonderful sense of humor, love of life, and memorable laugh, a man true to his word and to his friends, serving as an inspiration and role model to all who knew him, he will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of his wife and family, his ethics and respect for all people, 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.

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 Charles M. Banks, Sr. Family, his sons Charles, Jr. and Brewster, daughters Bonnie and Elaine, 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 his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of January, 2017.



Mayor

