

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1972 by Dr. Phillip K. Wood in recognition of the talent, capabilities, determination and courage of people with disabilities, **Ms. Wheelchair America** was created as a forum for the promotion of the achievements as well as the needs of women who use wheelchairs and the nonprofit organization is staffed and coordinated by dedicated volunteers; and

WHEREAS, an official Chapter of Ms. Wheelchair America and celebrating , **Ms. Wheelchair Florida, Inc.** is committed to its mission of educating, advocating and focusing on the inner strengths and accomplishments of those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, to bring awareness about the achievements, perseverance, and the personal and professional successes of women with physical disabilities, Ms. Wheelchair Florida hosts an annual **Empowerment and Leadership Conference and Gala for Women** to provide an opportunity for women who use wheelchairs to educate and advocate for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the 5th Annual Empowerment and Leadership Conference and Gala for Women, held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, features the theme "**Be the Change. Be Empowered**" and it includes the Ms. Wheelchair Pageant whereby one contestant is selected to be the **2017 Ms. Wheelchair Florida**; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wheelchair Florida's role is be to advocate for the approximately 54 million Americans with disabilities, promote awareness in order to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers, and educate people, those with and without disabilities, of the accomplishments and contributions of individuals with disabilities throughout Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 1, 2017 as

"MS. WHEELCHAIR FLORIDA DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in thanking Ms. Wheelchair Florida and its volunteers for their dedication in advocating for and celebrating women with disabilities and congratulating the winner of the 2017 Ms. Wheelchair Florida pageant.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of March, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

