

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our great nation, Americans have relied on prayer for guidance, strength, deliverance, protection and comfort; and

WHEREAS, the concept of setting aside time to pray for the nation first originated with the First Continental Congress in 1775 and was reaffirmed in 1952 when Congress designated an annual National Day of Prayer, and this observance allows us the opportunity to not only recall our founding fathers' dependence on God as the foundation of our Nation, but also to honor one of our basic freedoms – the right to worship according to his or her own faith; and

WHEREAS, throughout the crisis years of our nation's struggles we have called upon our God for help and strength, and today, our prayers are particularly important as so many of our nation's heroic men and women are serving in the United States Armed Forces making sacrifices for citizens throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Year 2017 marks the 66th Anniversary of the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme this year is "**For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us...Forgive Us...Heal Us!**" from the Scripture *Daniel 9:19* which states "*O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God...*" and it reminds us the Scripture tells us again and again that fervent prayer is effective, and as citizens and residents of the United States and as believers, our nation needs our prayers; and

WHEREAS, as in past years, this observance encourages all Americans to come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and their own homes to pray for guidance, wisdom and courage for both themselves and our nation's leaders, and to reflect on the right to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, May 4, 2017, Americans will unite in prayer to acknowledge and thank God for the many blessings our country has received, to recognize our need for personal repentance and renewal, to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 4, 2017 as

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens, according to the dictate of his or her own beliefs, to pause on this day to give thanks for our many blessings and to pray for continued guidance in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of April, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

